TETSUYA TSUTSUI

# PROPHECY 03

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# Characters

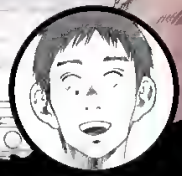
## "PAPERBOY" GROUP

**TUBBY**
From Fukuoka.
A gambling-addicted day laborer.

**NOBITA**
From Miyagi.
A former shut-in, and a dysfunctional communicator.

**GATES**
Mastermind of "Paperboy" who devises the group's criminal schemes. Former employee of a sweatshop IT firm.

**KANSAI**
From Osaka.
Had ambitions of becoming a musician but failed.



**SLIM**
A Filipino of Japanese descent who came to Japan to search for his Japanese father. Met Gates *et al.* while toiling at a day labor site; they were by his side when he died.

**SHITARAGI**
A member of the House of Representatives who aims to introduce internet regulations into law. He is the target of a death threat by Paperboy.

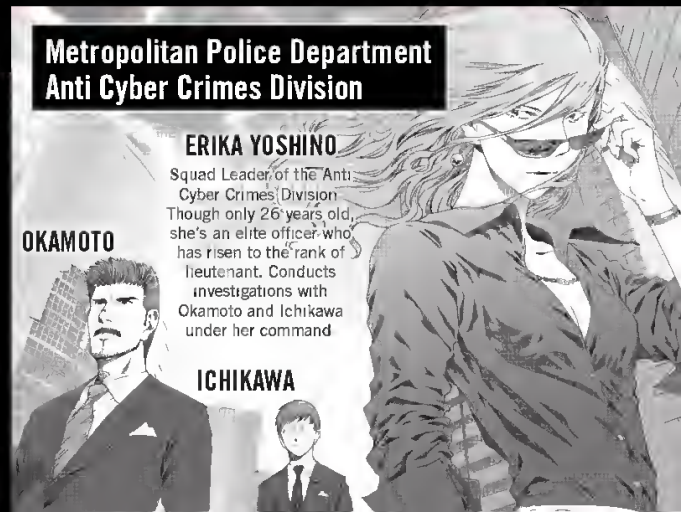
# Synopsis

A terrorist group known as "Paperboy" posts threats of future crimes on video sharing sites, then fulfills the prophecies by carrying out their threats. The four members met at a day labor site under brutal conditions. As "Paperboy" they pass sentences on corrupt society, which garners them increasing support online.

Meanwhile, they are being pursued by Yoshino and the Anti Cyber Crimes Division of the MPD. In their relentless pursuit, Yoshino's team gradually closes in on the identities of the perpetrators.

Then Paperboy threatens to murder a member of the Diet. But Nobita, feeling hesitant about carrying out such a crime, makes a call to the police, betraying his comrades...

## Metropolitan Police Department Anti Cyber Crimes Division



**ERIKA YOSHINO**
Squad Leader of the Anti Cyber Crimes Division. Though only 26 years old, she's an elite officer who has risen to the rank of lieutenant. Conducts investigations with Okamoto and Ichikawa under her command.

**OKAMOTO**

**ICHIKAWA**

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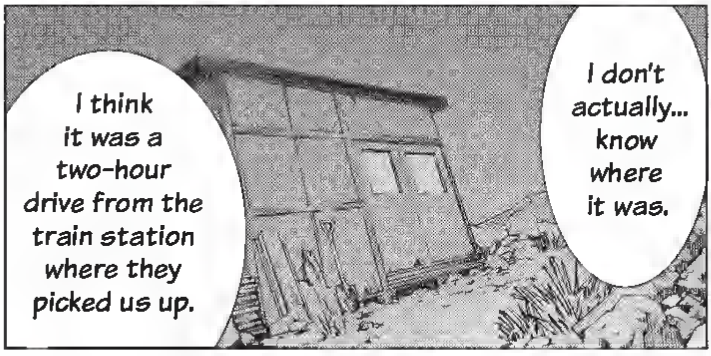
* This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to persons, groups, or events is purely coincidental.

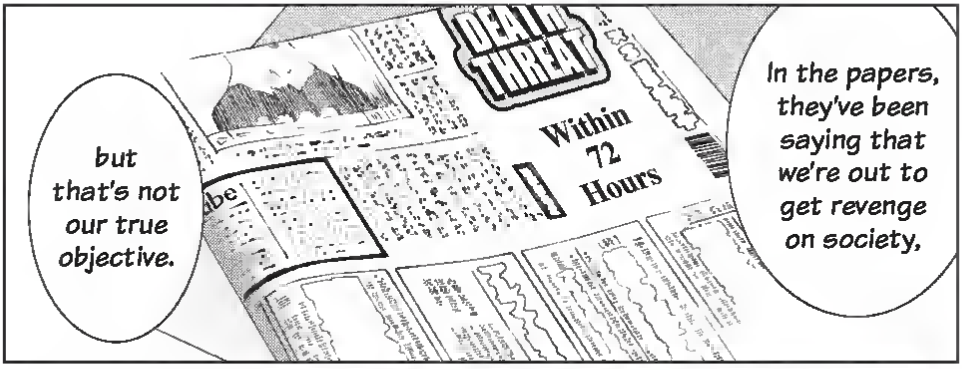
File
015

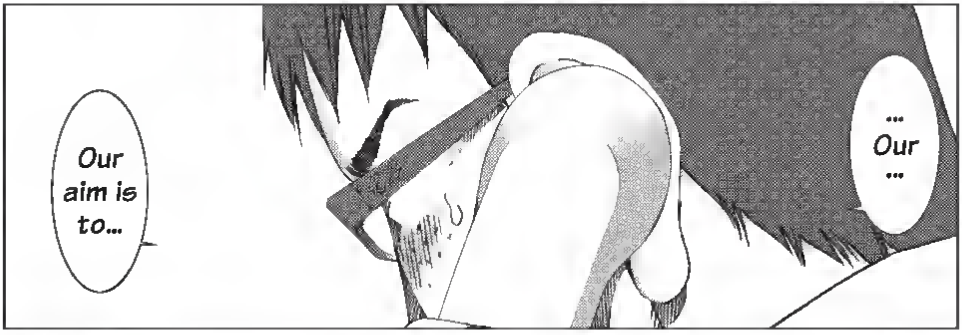
There are four of us
in the group, myself included.

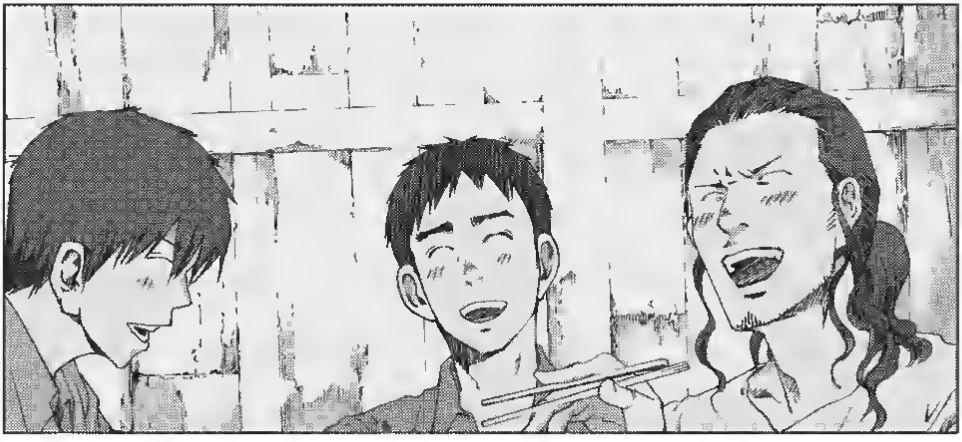

I don't actually... know where it was.
I think it was a two-hour drive from the train station where they picked us up.

We first met
three years ago at a day labor job site.

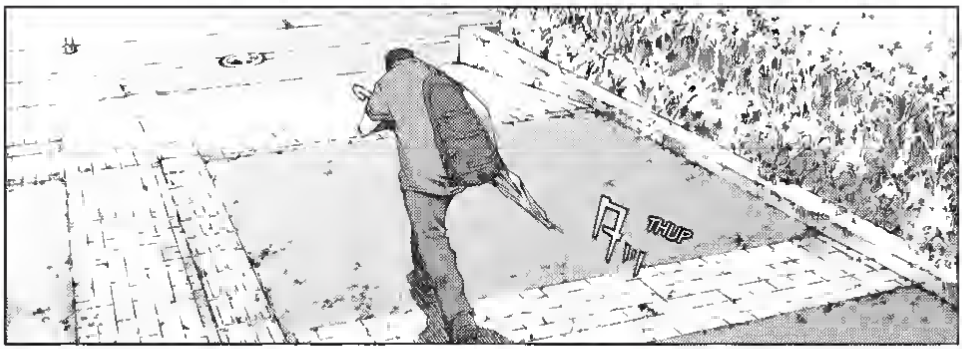
As for who we go after,
and the crimes we commit,
we act according to our leader's instructions.

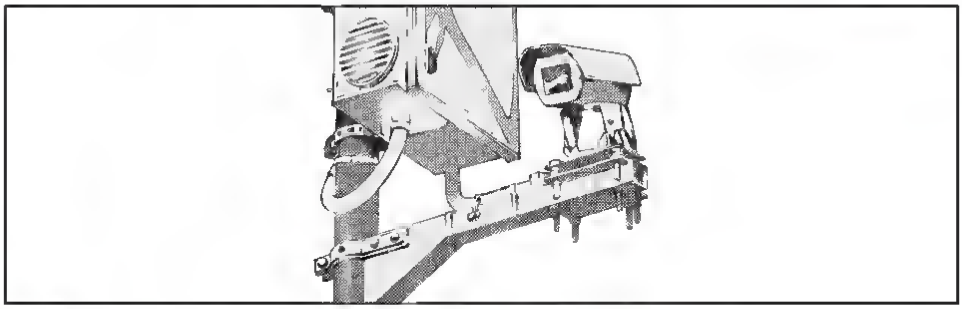

but that's not our true objective.
DEATH THREAT
Within 72 Hours
In the papers, they've been saying that we're out to get revenge on society,

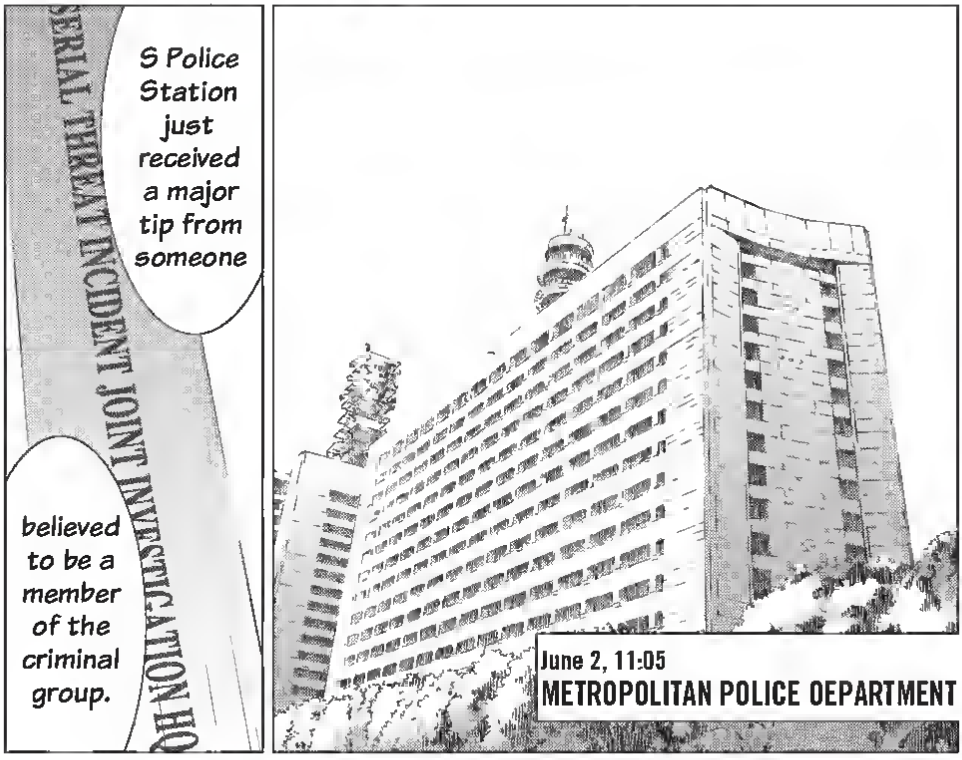

Our aim is to...
... Our ...

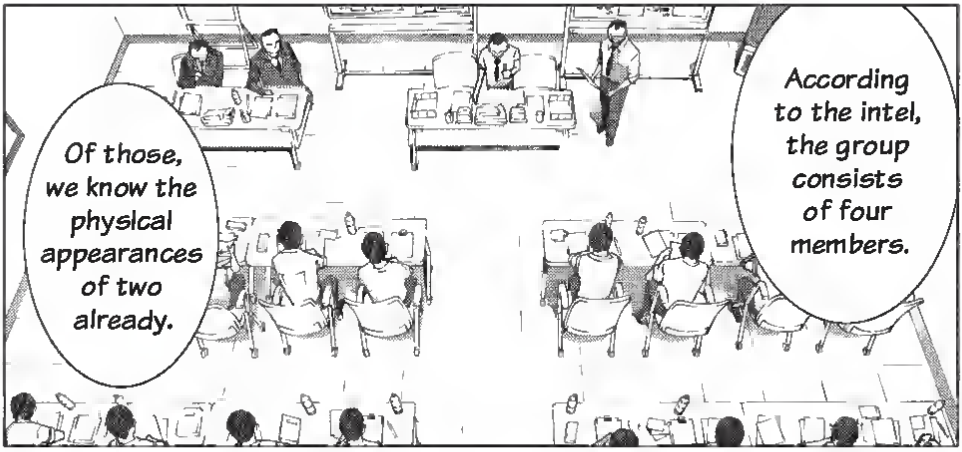


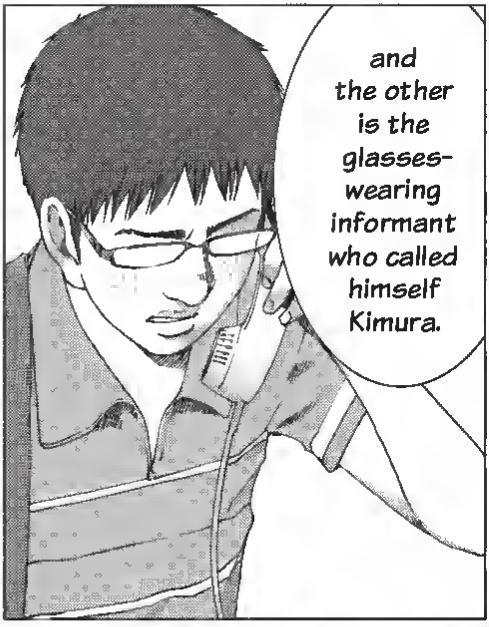
KA
CHANG
チャーン
haa
haa
GRIP
キュッ
WIPE
キュッ
WIPE
キュッ
TELEPHONE CA


THUP




SERIAL THREAT INCIDENT JOINT INVESTIGATION HQ
S Police Station just received a major tip from someone
believed to be a member of the criminal group.
June 2, 11:05
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT


According to the intel, the group consists of four members.
Of those, we know the physical appearances of two already.

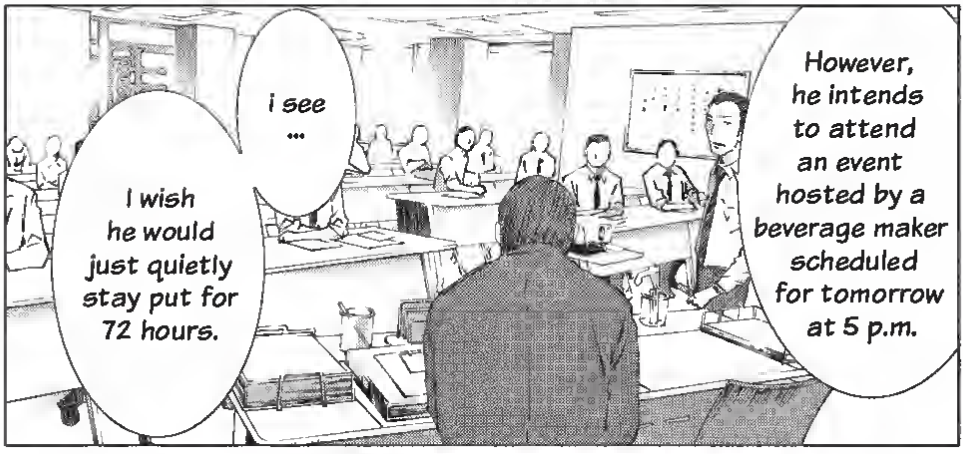

and the other is the glasses-wearing informant who called himself Kimura.

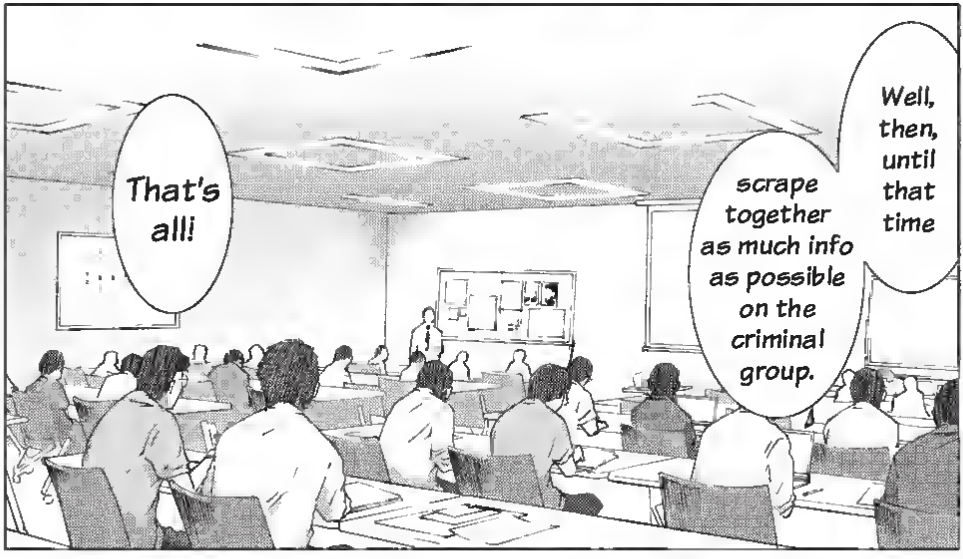
One who uses net cafés under the name "Nelson Kato-Ricarte"
that posts the crime warning videos,

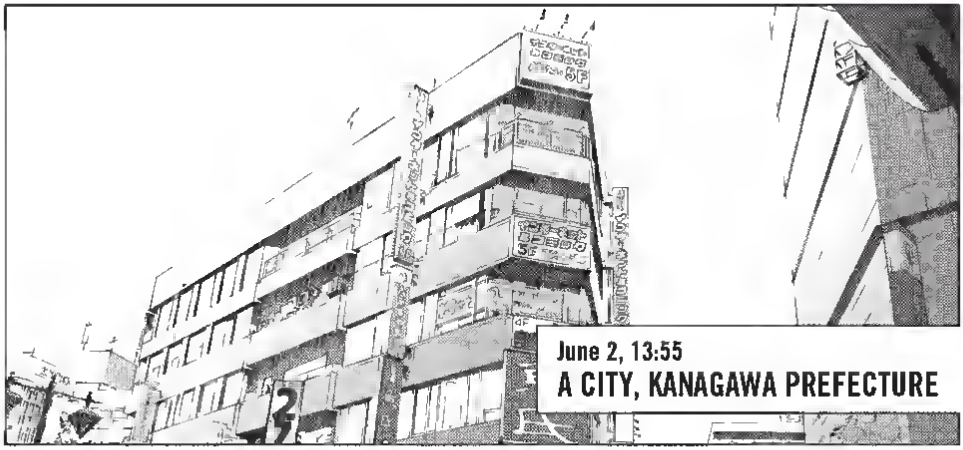
Today at 10:35, Kimura called 911 from a roadside phone booth in S Ward in Tokyo
and provided details to S Police Station.

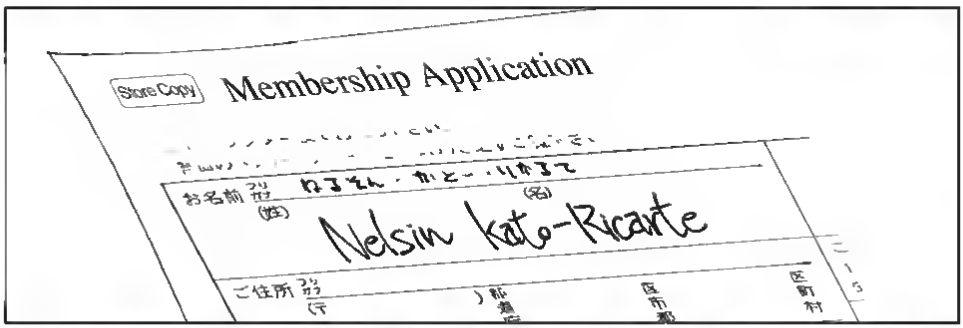
...
Our... Our aim is to...
but that's not our true objective.
In the papers, they've been saying that we're out to get revenge on society,
I don't get this at all...
Police in that jurisdiction are currently conducting a manhunt.
About one minute into the call, Kimura abruptly hung up and ran off in the direction of O Town.
Then what is it?
Their objective isn't revenge against society ...?
It's possible this tip itself is a feint.
We can't accept that statement on faith either.
Wait ...

What about Representative Shitaragi?
We have him in holding at the T Hotel In Tokyo all day today.
We've increased the number of Secret Police on his detail,
so for today there shouldn't be any issues.


However, he intends to attend an event hosted by a beverage maker scheduled for tomorrow at 5 p.m.
I see ...
I wish he would just quietly stay put for 72 hours.


Well, then, until that time
scrape together as much info as possible on the criminal group.
That's all!

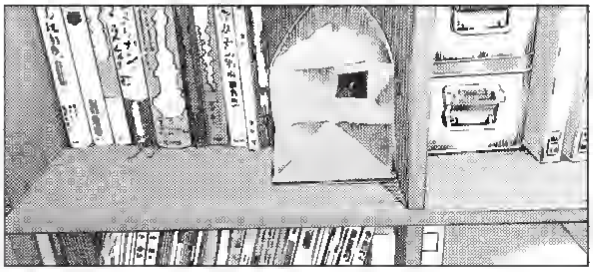

June 2, 13:55
A CITY, KANAGAWA PREFECTURE


Store Copy
Membership Application
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte

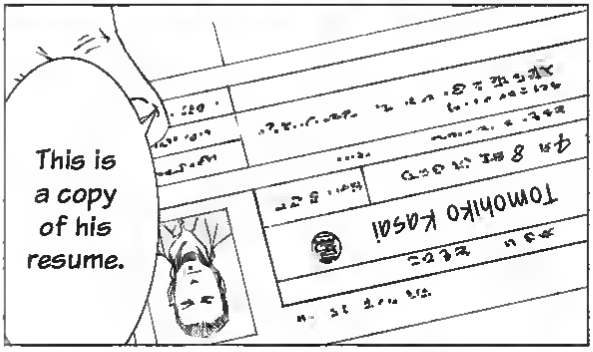
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte ...

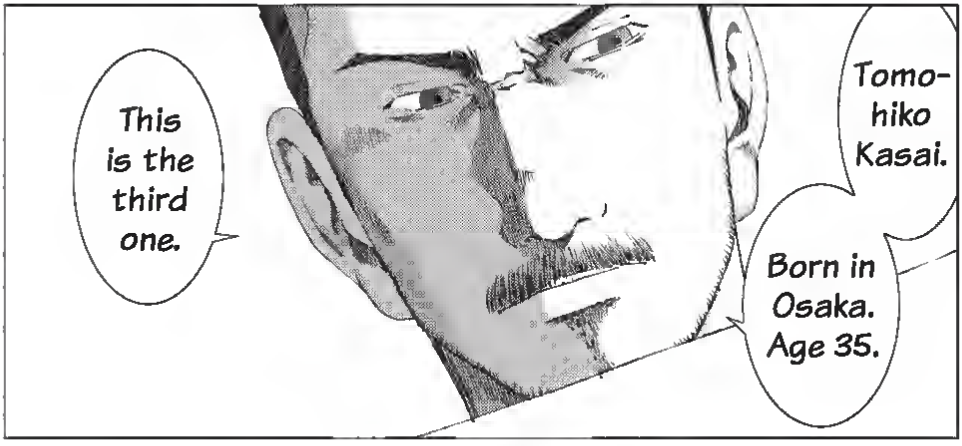
From 4:10 p.m. on June 1...
Only used it for 30 minutes.
Through our investigations, we were able to confirm that
the death threat video was uploaded from a computer here at 4:30 p.m.
A part-timer named Kasai, but...
Truth is he only came that one day and then quit on me.
Who would have been waiting on customers then?
Couldn't even get him on the phone the day after.
Left me in a real tight spot.
Is that so...

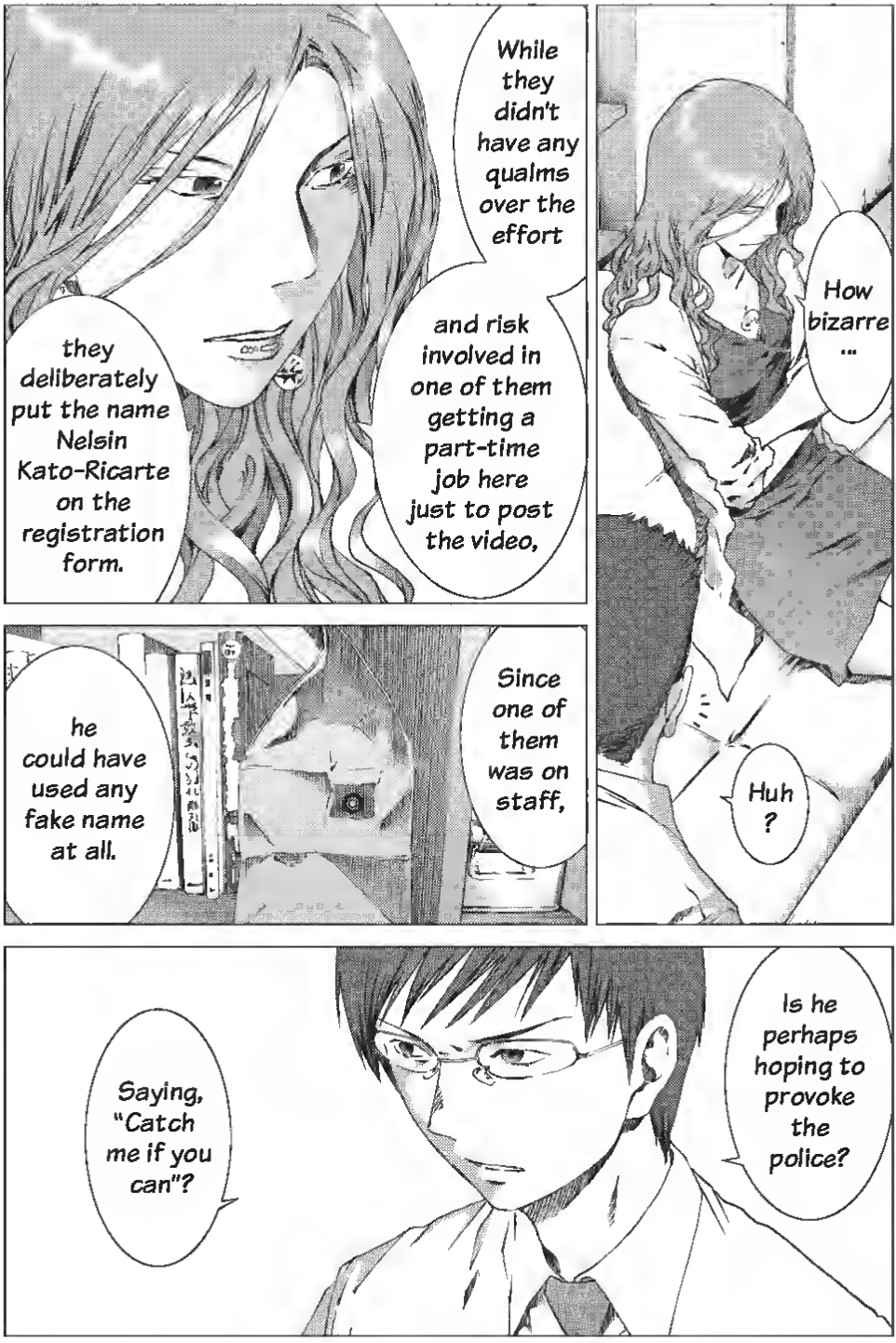
This clerk seems to be quite tall, doesn't he?
Sure is.
I'd say he was nearly 6 feet.



Thought he'd end up whacking his head on that entry-way.
I see.

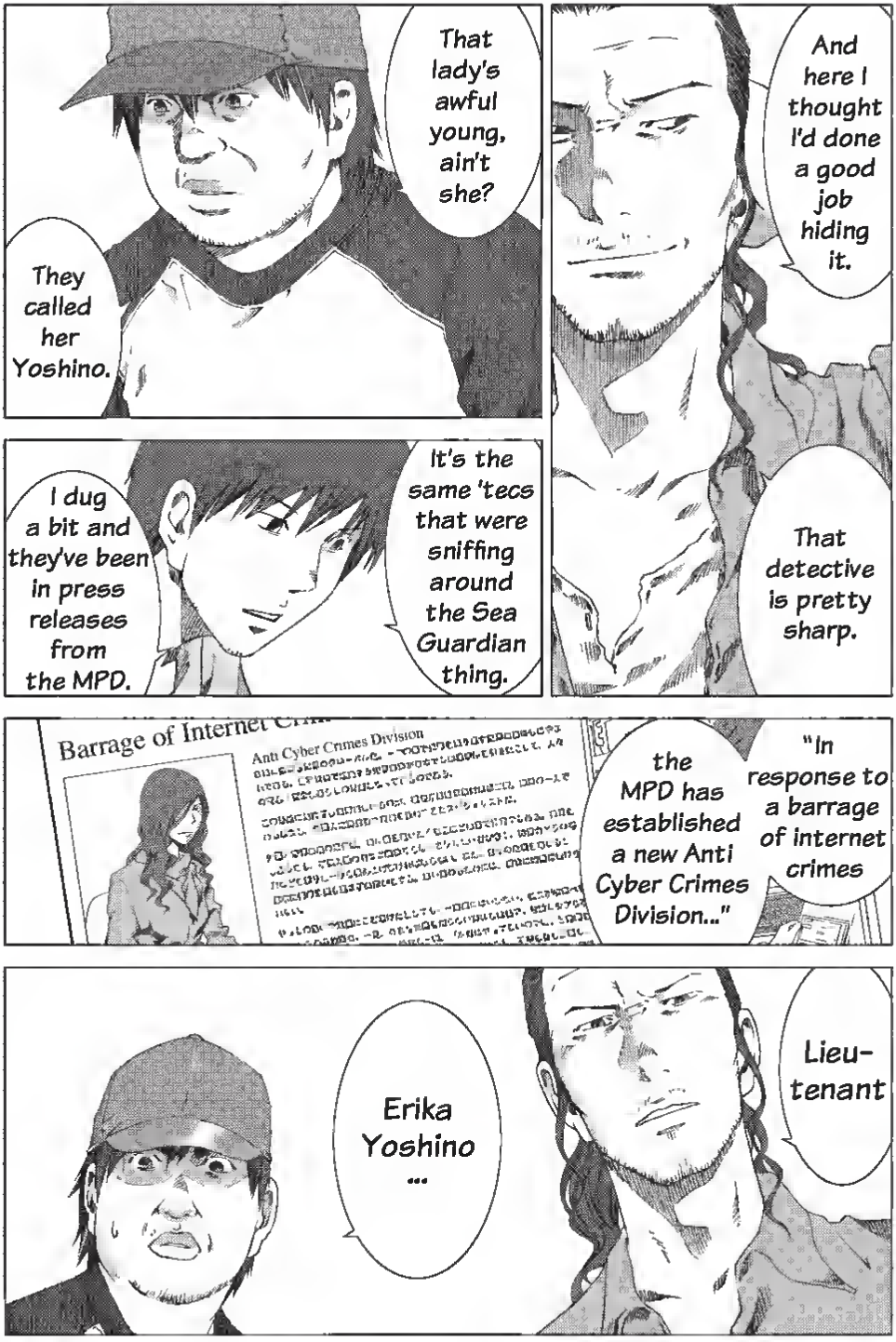

This is a copy of his resume.
Tomohiko Kasai


This is the third one.
Tomo-hiko Kasai.
Born in Osaka. Age 35.


While they didn't have any qualms over the effort
and risk involved in one of them getting a part-time job here just to post the video,
they deliberately put the name Nelsin Kato-Ricarte on the registration form.
How bizarre ...
Huh ?
Since one of them was on staff,
he could have used any fake name at all.
Is he perhaps hoping to provoke the police?
Saying, "Catch me if you can"?

If that's the case,
SHR
RIP
then we'd better live up to his expectations.

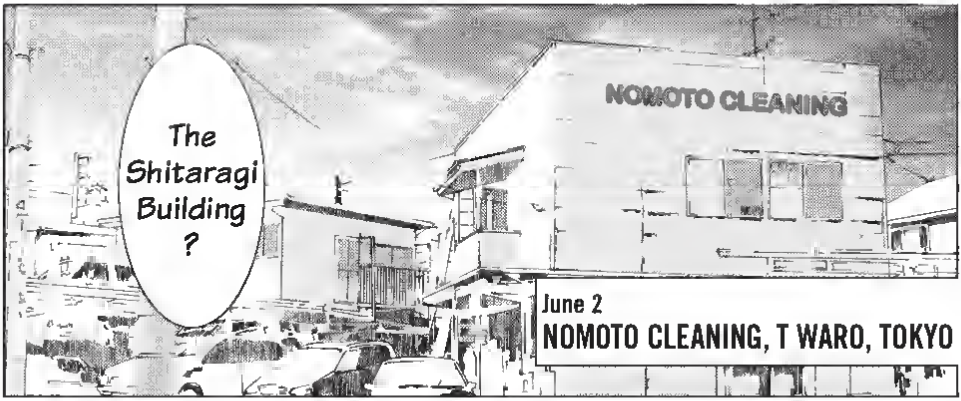
If that's the case,
Saying, "Catch me if you can"?
Is he perhaps hoping to provoke the police?
ブーン…
ZZT
then we'd better live up to his expectations.
They discovered the camera.
That's where the signal cut off.


That lady's awful young, ain't she?
They called her Yoshino.
And here I thought I'd done a good job hiding it.
That detective is pretty sharp.
It's the same 'tecs that were sniffing around the Sea Guardian thing.
I dug a bit and they've been in press releases from the MPD.
Barrage of Internet
Anti Cyber Crimes Division
"In response to a barrage of internet crimes
the MPD has established a new Anti Cyber Crimes Division..."
Erika Yoshino ...
Lieu-tenant

I ran late.
S...
Sorry, guys.
SHIT
What were you up to,
You're very late.
Uh... uhm.
I just ...
Nobita ?

Well.
This whole plan had too many variables to begin with.
And honestly there were some real high-wire stunts in there.
...
WHSH
Just being able to reunite without mishap today
is itself practically miracu-lous.

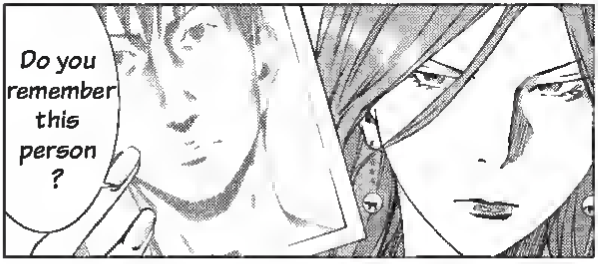
I'm glad you all made it.
Thank you.
...


NOMOTO CLEANING
The Shitaragi Building ?
June 2
NOMOTO CLEANING, T WARO, TOKYO

I was told that Nomoto Cleaning was responsible for the building's external window washing.
It's an office building in M Town.

Huh ...? Yeah.
Well ...
So you mean, you used to?

Yeah.
But we don't do that place no more.


Do you remember this person ?

If it ain't that bastard Okuda.
Yeah ...
OKUDA.
Uh... Well, the guy definitely worked for us,
but only briefly.
How was his perform-ance?

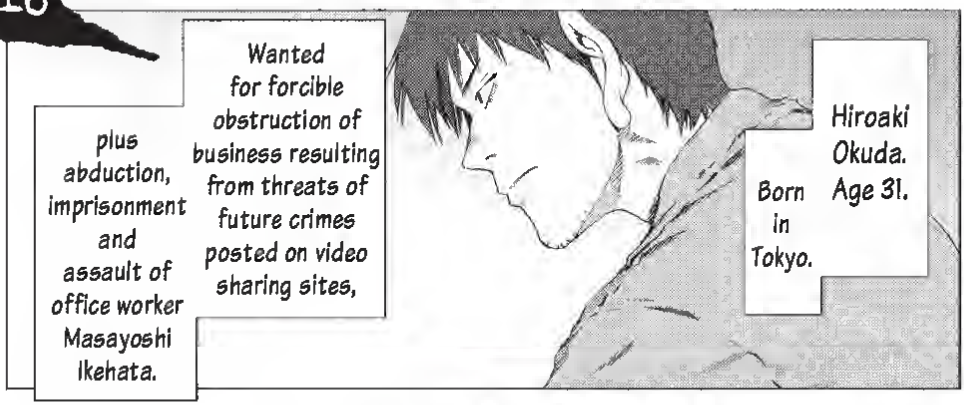
What was the complaint?
so I fired him right away.
Hm? Ah, well... A client complained about him,
Thanks to that fuckin' pervert!
They even canceled our contract!
He went all Peepin' Tom while on the job!
...
Let's just say he's a person of interest.
Well, this and that.
So...
He get into some more trouble?

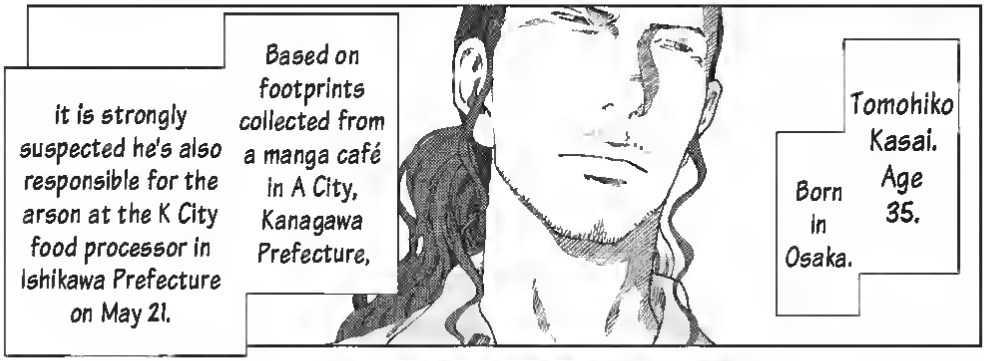
When I heard the name "Shitaragi" on the news, I thought, "No way."
But with you detectives showing up today, now I'm convinced.
It was on TV.
This is about the death threat against Mr. Shitaragi, right?
He used our company like we were dirt
so he could go and pull that stupid prank.
This was his objective
from the very start, wasn't it.
Hiroaki Okuda

Please catch him, detective.
No matter what.
We will, I promise.
I'll stake the honor of the force on it.
NOMOTO
Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Resume
Name:
Hiroaki Okuda
Date of Birth
November 27, 1980
Koto Ward, Tokyo
Paper-boy.
Seems like we've finally gotten a lead on you,
SH
Hiroaki Okuda.
Or should I say ...
FF

File 016


Wanted for forcible obstruction of business resulting from threats of future crimes posted on video sharing sites,
plus abduction, imprisonment and assault of office worker Masayoshi Ikehata.
Hiroaki Okuda. Age 31.
Born in Tokyo.


Based on footprints collected from a manga café in A City, Kanagawa Prefecture,
it is strongly suspected he's also responsible for the arson at the K City food processor in Ishikawa Prefecture on May 21.
Tomohiko Kasai. Age 35.
Born in Osaka.

Until May 26, he was employed at the same hotel where executives from the environmentalist group Sea Guardian were staying.
It's believed he had a part in the incident involving the hacking of said group's official website.
Koichi Kimura. Age 26.
Born in Miyagi.

Suspected in the kidnapping, imprisonment, and assault of former R University student Shuji Seki.
The "chubby man."
Age mid-30s, height about 5'5" according to eye witness testimony.

Ces ordures méritent une Punition!!
HIROAKI
AGE 21
BORN TOKYO
FORCIBLE OBSTRUCTION OF BUSINESS,
ABDUCTION & RESTRAINT, ASSAULT
VARIOUS OTHER CRIMES
TOMOHIKO KASAI
AGE 35
BORN OSAKA
ARSON
KIMURA KOICHI
AGE 28
BORN MIYAGI PREF.
TRESPASSING

File
016

The cops're moving faster than I expected.
I think we should make the delivery and then be done with it.
All we need to do is cause a commotion at the venue.
The method doesn't really matter.
That's real half-ass-ed.
How's that gonna be enough?
Kansai and Nobita, you're on standby until tomorrow.
Tubby, I want you going out on interviews today.
OK.

There are a few candidates but if you could nail the first one, that'd be great.
Got it.
Well, I'll try bein' as friendly as I can, anyway.
Nobita.
What's up with that umbrella ?
Huh ?
By the way ...
Some-thing's been bugging me.
Ah... No, it's just ...

If you walk around with that thing when it's not raining, you'll draw unwanted attention.
Don't do anything that'll stick in people's memories.
Just chuck it.
Now that I'm lookin' at it, it's a wreck.
Better watch out, bud.
I gave up wearin' my Hawks cap for the same reason.
It's borrowed, so...
But I...
Uh ...
But ...

Nobita.
GET RID OF IT.

...!
Please come again, okay?
Well, I'll be waiting.
... uh ... Uh... mm ...

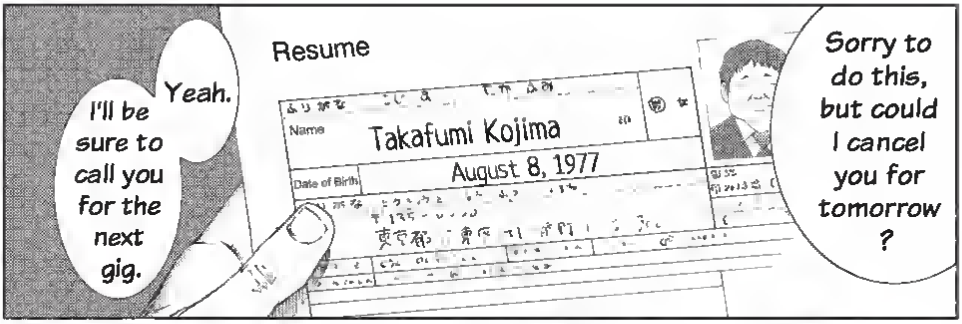
That's good enough... right?
KTAK
...All right.
That's good enough.
... Yeah.
...

Hello, Kojima?
Sorry to call you out of the blue.
Listen, do you know how much you weigh right now?
24 HOUR SECURITY & SAFETY
June 2, 17:00
SHUEI SECURITY SERVICES (SECURITY FIRM)

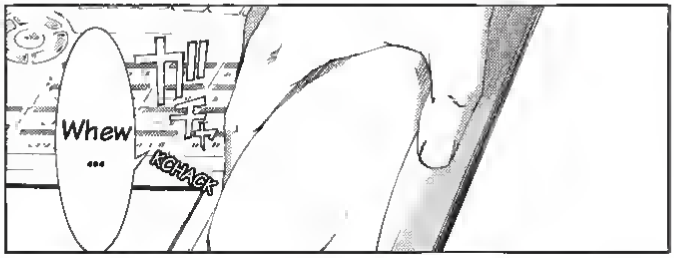
200 pounds, huh...
That's pretty big...

Oh, no, no.
Ball-park will do.
Yeah.

The scaf-folding at this venue is in bad shape.
The client is insisting on a weight limit for all security staff.
Well, it's... Uhm.
Here's the deal.

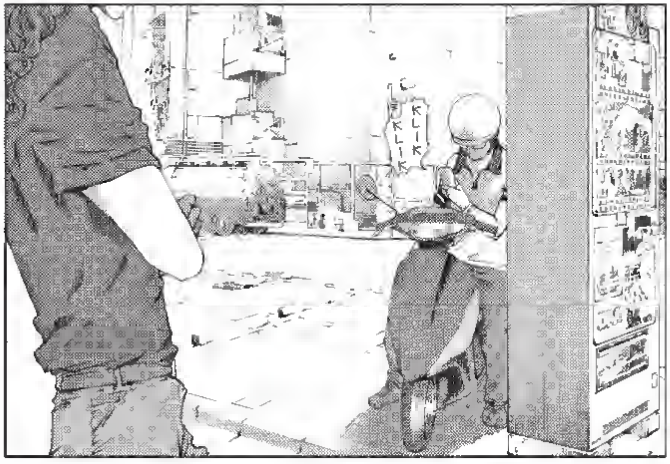

Resume
Name
Takafumi Kojima
Date of Birth
August 8, 1977
Yeah.
I'll be sure to call you for the next gig.
Sorry to do this, but could I cancel you for tomorrow?

Now then.
Who else?
Over-weight, over-weight ...

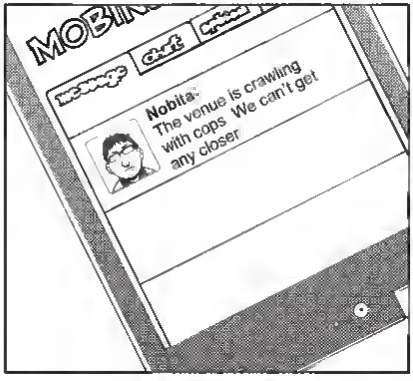

Whew ...
KCHACK

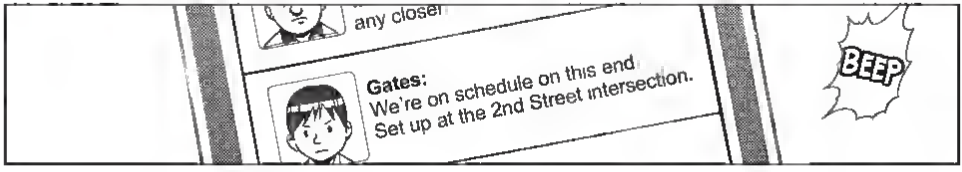
No overweight security personnel allowed.
What a bizarre demand.

June 3, 14:55
M WARO, TOKYO


KLIK
KLIK

2:55.
Almost time.


Nobita:
The venue is crawling with cops. We can't get any closer


any closer
Gates:
We're on schedule on this end.
Set up at the 2nd Street intersection.
BEEP

ガー
VRMMM
PTAK
KREEE
Here they come.
...
SHFF
YANK
キュ
VVRROOM
ゴオオオオオオオオオ

WHOA
?!
WHOOOM

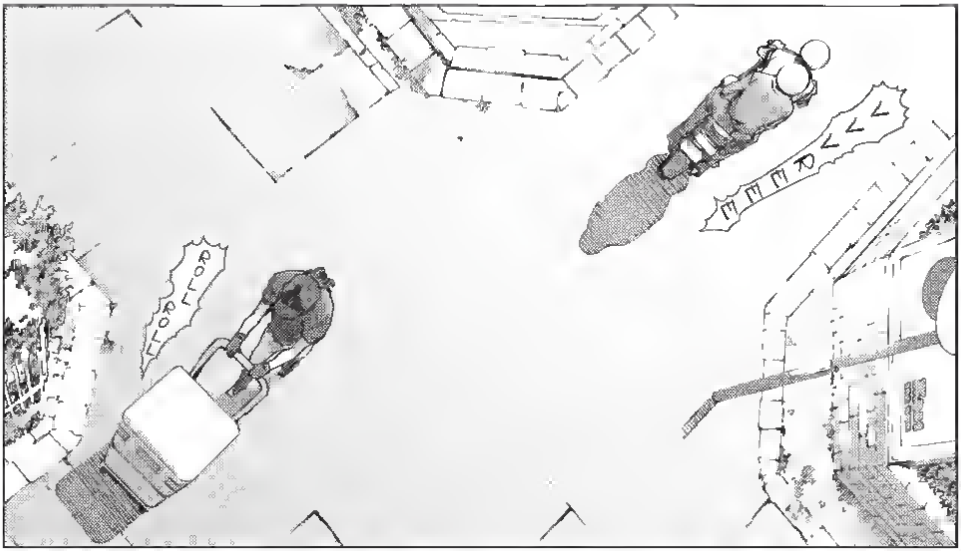
SSKKRRREEEE
ZHHHKKKK
KRASSH
AAGH!!

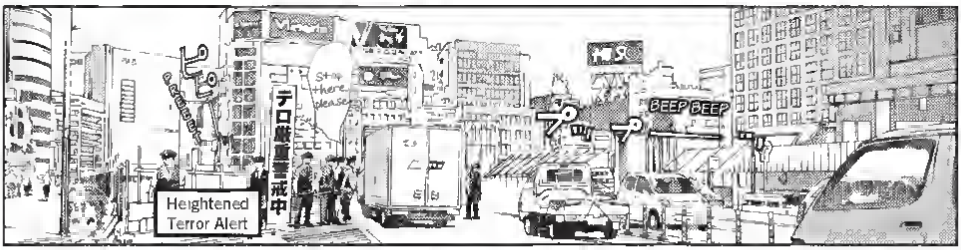
THUP
You tryna kill yourself ?!!
That was fuckin' close! Hey!!
TONK
Your license! Gimme your license !
Hey! Get up!
ROLL
ROLL

Huh ...? Ah !
No, wait !
I'll call the cops!
I got his license !
If this delivery is late we'll be losing more than just our jobs!
We don't got time for that now!
Hey, as long as you're not hurt, dude, that's all right.
But ya gotta be careful.
I'M SORRY!
SO SORRY !
You okay ?

Hup.
I'll go make sure the cargo's still secure.
Oh, yeah, good idea.
Oh! No, no, please!
It's fine. Really!
I saw him barrel out without any turn signal.
I can give a statement if you need it.
RIP RIP RIP
IOVABLE SPRAY
FSSH
TH
MP
PAT

I'm gonna report this guy.
I'll file an accident report with the office, too.
All check-ed!
It's OK!
Sorry, could you go on ahead to the venue and make the delivery without me?
Oh ...
OK, got it.
Guess I'll go do that.
Yeah.
Good job.
... That went well.


ROLL
ROLL

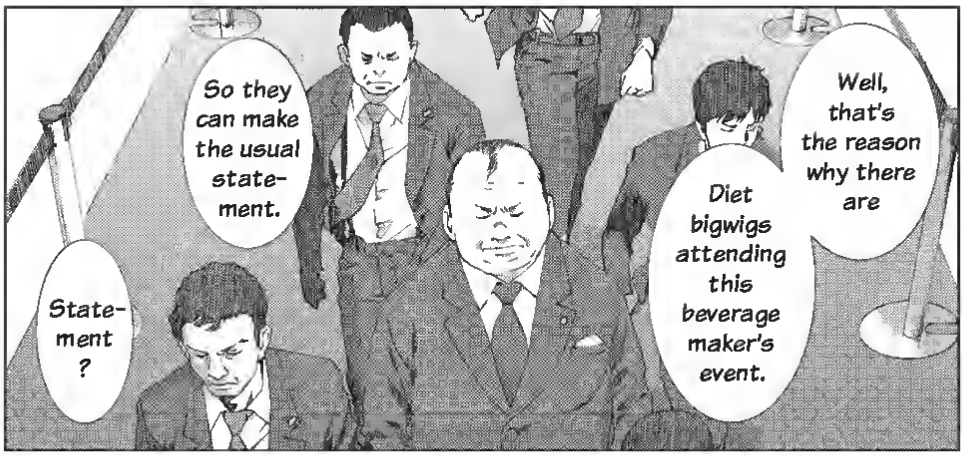

Heightened
Terror Alert
BEEP BEEP

The new healthy energy drink, Red Quantum !
It's here at last!
June 3, 15:30
M WARD EVENT VENUE, TOKYO

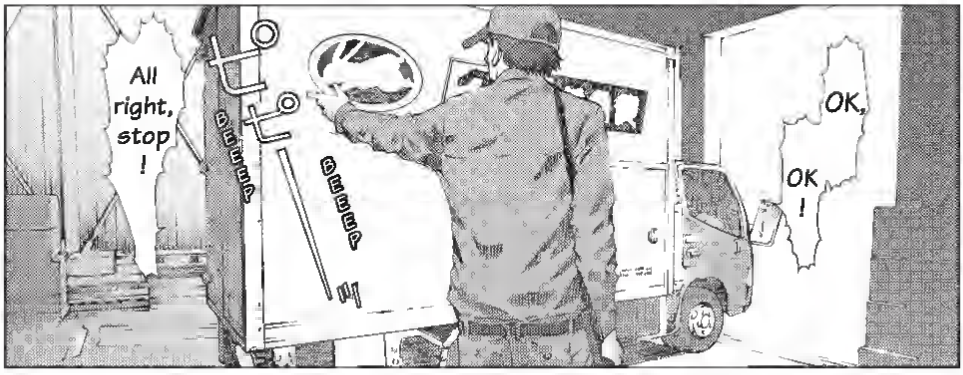
R.Q
RED QUANTUM
Rads +2
HP +10
New healthy energy drink
Red Quantum. On sale now!!
Its active ingredients rapidly burn off excess fat!!
It's got the Health Ministry's approval, so it's good for you!
Keep tweeting and score awesome rewards !
NEW TWEET
RED QUANTUM IS AWESOME
IT'S MY FAVE DRINK!
We're running a viral campaign on social networks !
RED QUANTUM
LAUNCH PARTY AND TASTING EVENT
BUB
HUB
Well, one of the guests is a Diet member targeted by a death threat.
Awful lot of security, huh?
For a drink maker event.
Please have your bags open!
Thanks for your cooperation!
bip
bip

There's even a bomb squad in heavy armor at the back entrance.
Whoa ...
See those guys here and there with their jackets open?
They're Metro PD Security Police.
Seri-ously ?
Ban its sale immedi-ately!!
Red Quantum is hazardous to your health!
BAN IT !!
No More Corrupt Health Labels
Irresponsible Government

Carcinogens?
IRRESPON
GOVERNM
KIDS WILL
GET CANCER!
That's bad news!
What's all that?
There's been a deluge of reports on news aggregator sites that carcinogens were detected in the product.
Carcinogens in Health Ministry-Approved Drinks?!
But apparentiy there's enough for it to get flagged by regulations in some American states.
There's so little of it that even if you guzzled the drinks daiiy, there's minimai risk.
Well of course, going by Japanese standards it's not an issue.
they're right to call out the government's recognition of something as "healthy" when there are such concerns.
e Consumer ffairs Agency must withdraw Health Approval!!
APOLOGIZE!
Protect the lives of our children!!
But even if it's only the tiniest amount
Mum-bied?
to recognize this drink as "healthy."
There are aiso rumors that several Diet members mumbied to the Consumer Affairs Agency

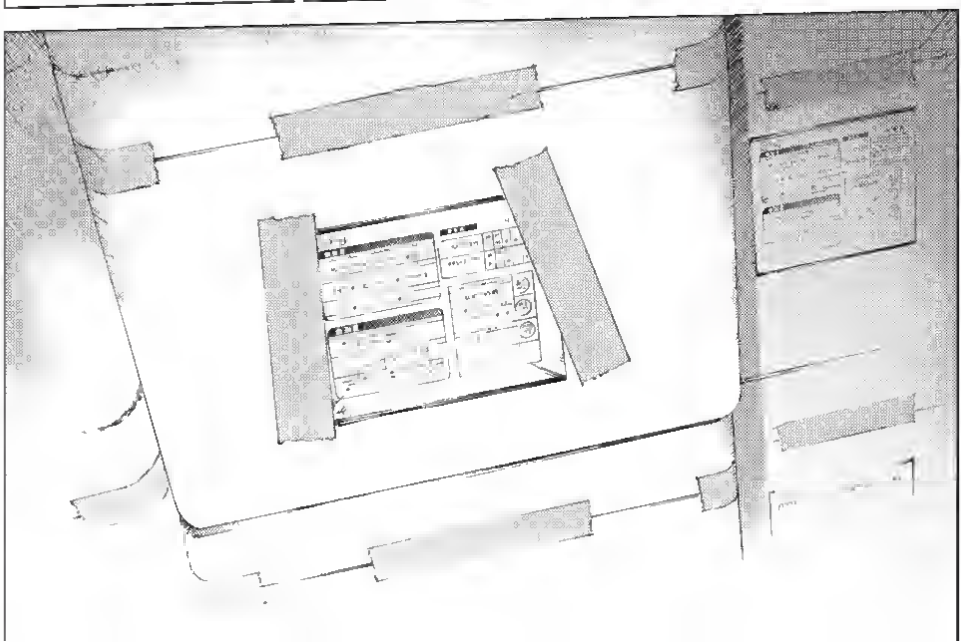

Well, that's the reason why there are
Diet bigwigs attending this beverage maker's event.
So they can make the usual statement.
Statement ?

There are no immediate effects!
R.Q

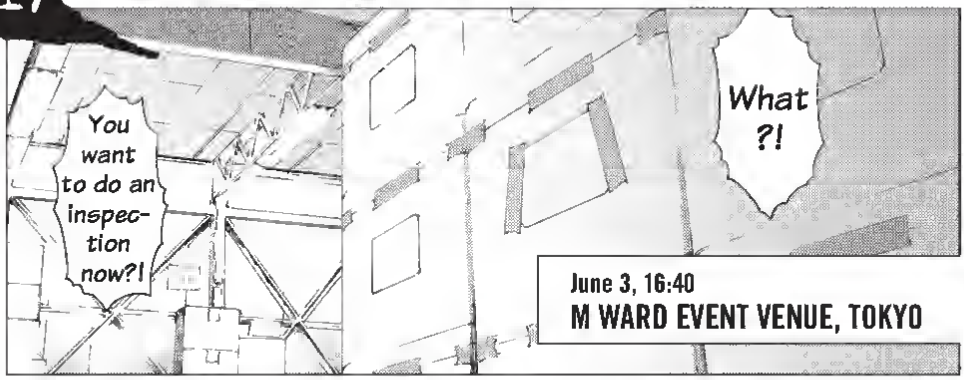

All right, stop !
OK, OK !

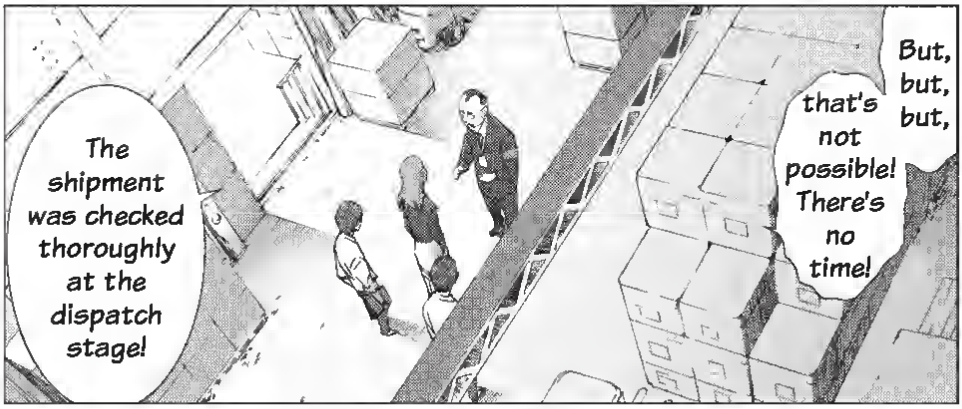
Let's haul it in!
I was nearly caught up in an accident on the way here!
Sorry I'm so late!
Ah, that's fine, that's fine.

PAT
Geez ...
WILT
Hm ?



File 017

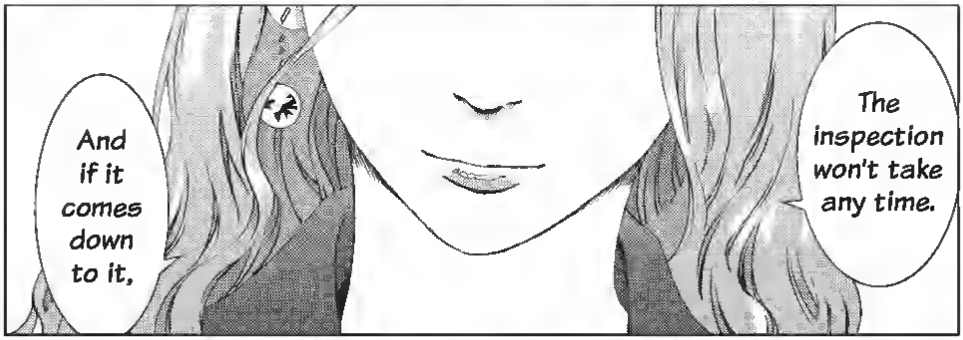

You want to do an inspection now?!
What ?!
June 3, 16:40
M WARD EVENT VENUE, TOKYO


The shipment was checked thoroughly at the dispatch stage!
But, but, but, that's not possible! There's no time!

Hmm ... Well, yes.
In that case, I suppose...

Well then, could we just check the portion intended for the guests of honor from the Diet before the event begins?

But the selling point of this new product,
Red Quantum is the high-pressure, powerful carbo-nation.
R.Q
If the inspection takes too long, the carbonation will escape.

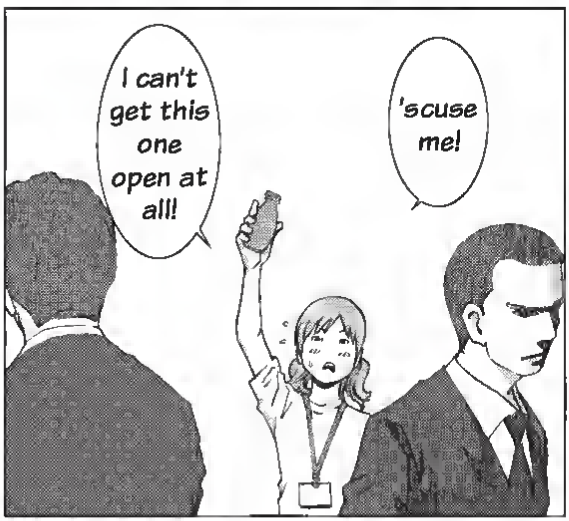

The inspection won't take any time.
And if it comes down to it,

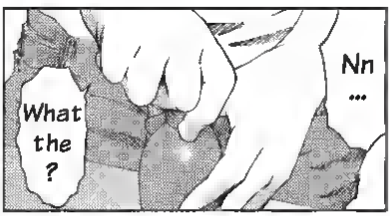
WE WILL DRINK IT OURSELVES TO CHECK FOR POISON.
Huh ?!
"We" ?!

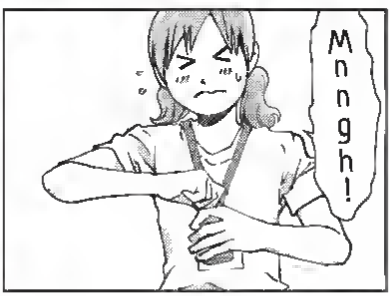
File
017

Would you like to try a sample?
New Red Quantum now on sale!

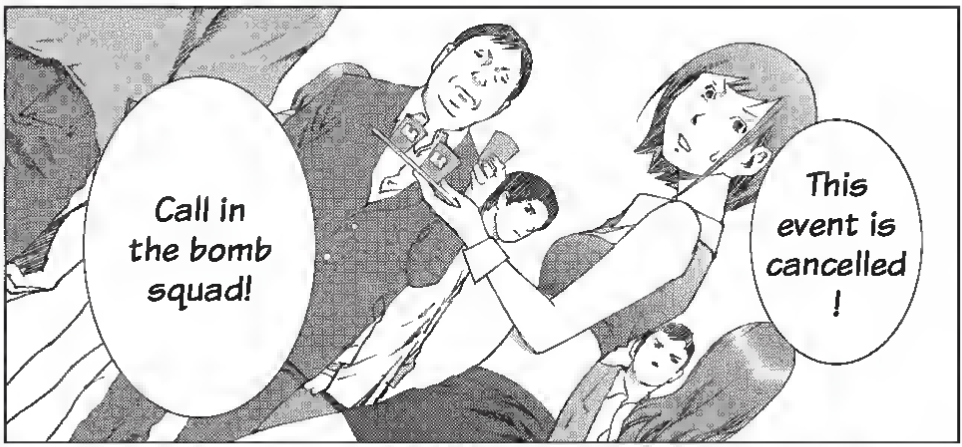
ROLL ROLL
Keep opening cases!
Hey, we don't want to run out of samples!


I can't get this one open at all!
'scuse me!


What the ?
Nn ...

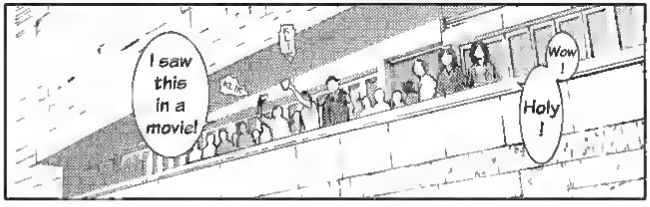

Mnngh!

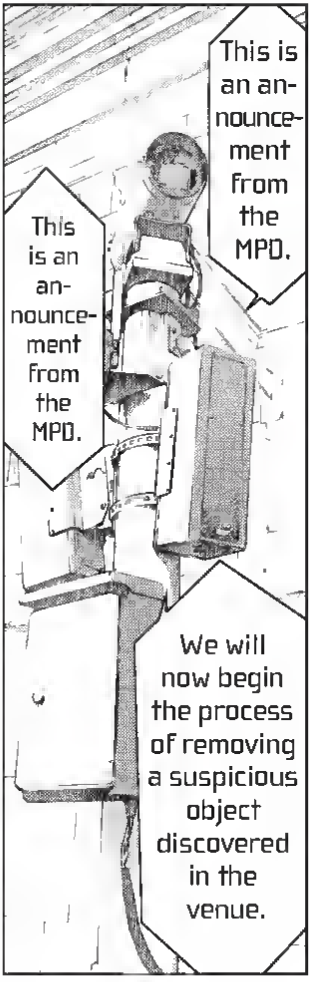
HUB
BUB
It's been tampered with.
It's 27 grams over the standard weight.
OK...
Huh? Uh.
Put it on here.
Slowly please.
BEEP
332 g
The ring's been reattached with glue.
The cap shows evidence of being opened.
CHIK


Call in the bomb squad!
This event is cancelled !

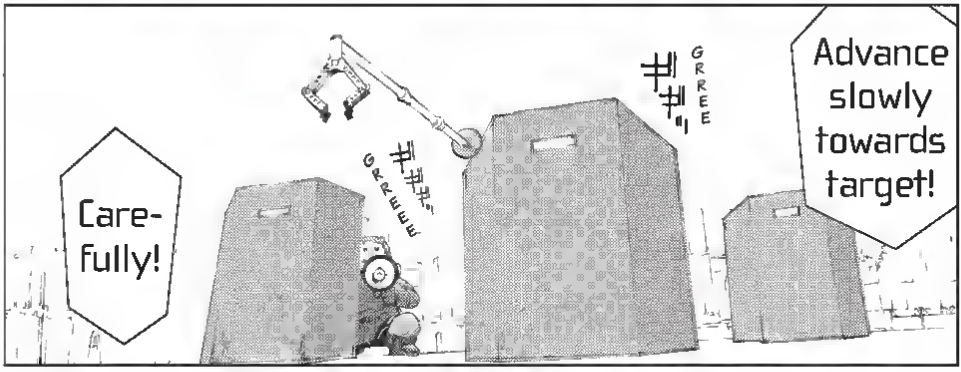
HUB
BUS
For real ?
Evac-uate ?
All attendees: Please follow the instructions of the officials and promptly evacuate the premises.

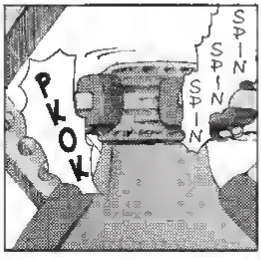
HUB
BUS
Re-main calm !
Stay calm !
Do not push, please!


I saw this in a movie!
Wow !
Holy !

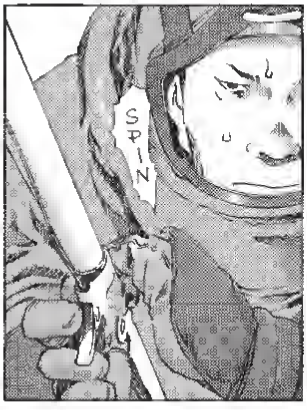

This is an an-nounce-ment from the MPD.
This is an an-nounce-ment from the MPD.
We will now begin the process of removing a suspicious object discovered in the venue.

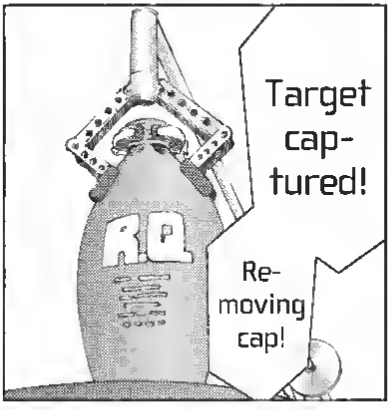
SHUFF


Advance slowly towards target!
Care-fully!
GRREE
MMMRRG

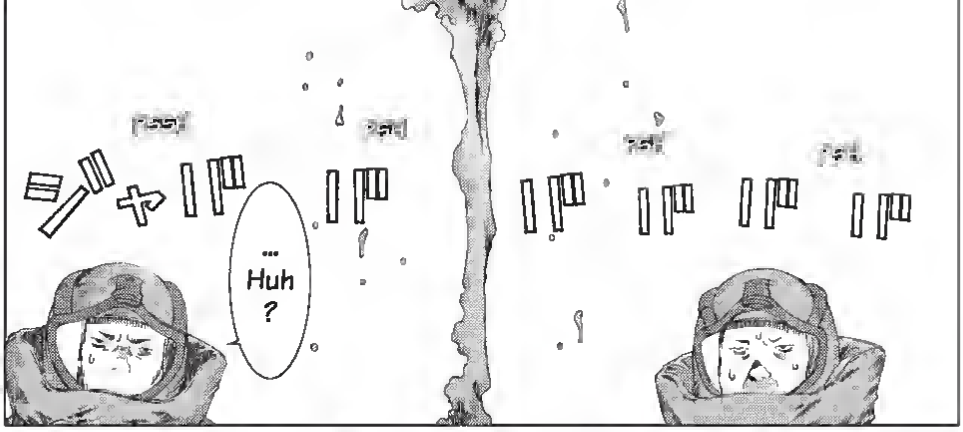

SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
PKOK

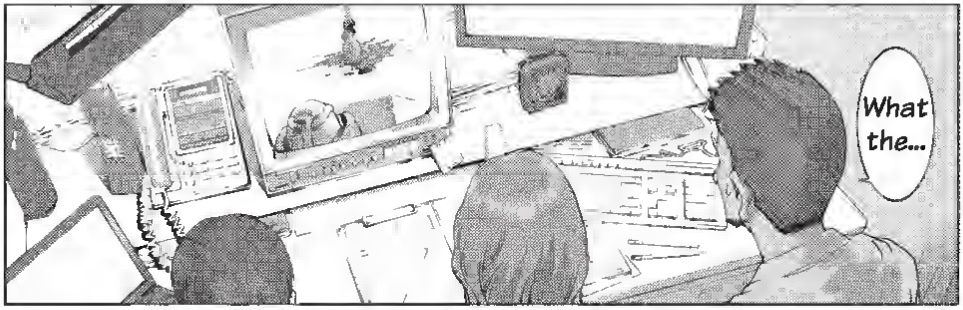
Hm ?

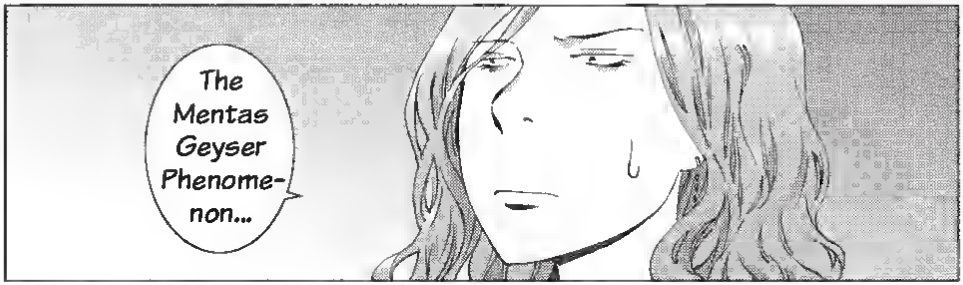

SPIN

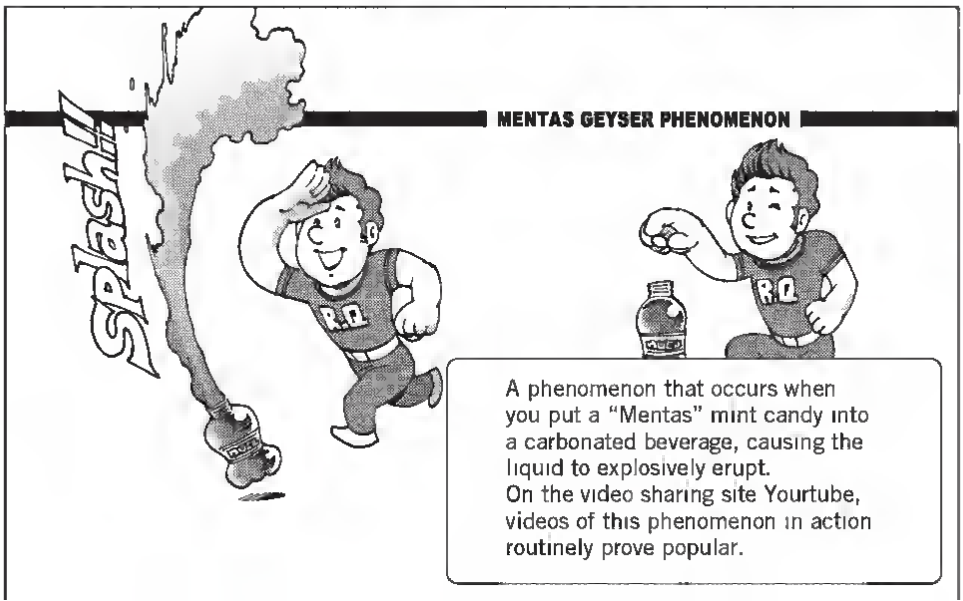

Target cap-tured!
Re-moving cap!
R.P.

FWOOSSHH
POP
R.Q

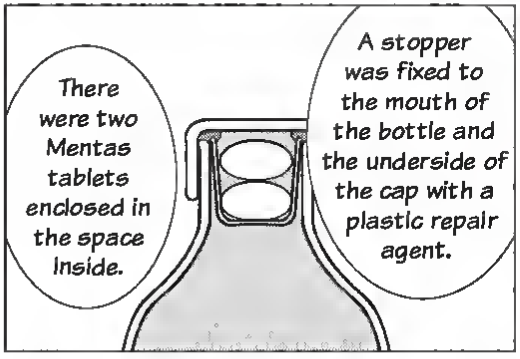

[Tap]
[Tap]
[Tap]
[Tap]
... Huh ?

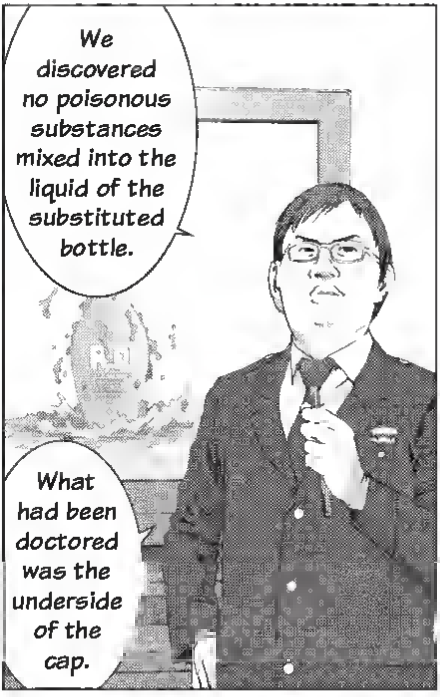

What the...

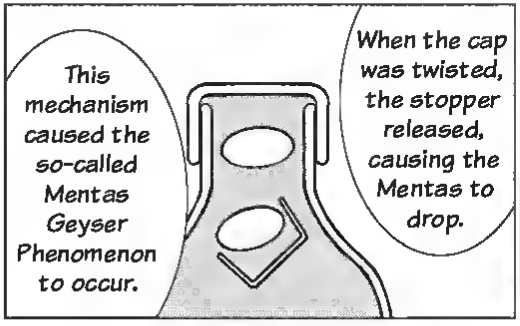

The Mentas Geyser Phenome-non...

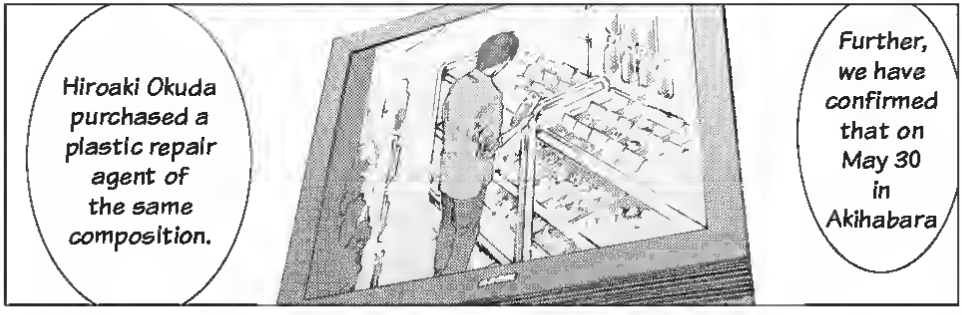

Splash!!
MENTAS GEYSER PHENOMENON
R.O
R.O
A phenomenon that occurs when you put a "Mentas" mint candy into a carbonated beverage, causing the liquid to explosively erupt.
On the video sharing site Yourtube, videos of this phenomenon in action routinely prove popular.

June 3, 18:00
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT


There were two Mentas tablets enclosed in the space inside.
A stopper was fixed to the mouth of the bottle and the underside of the cap with a plastic repair agent.


We discovered no poisonous substances mixed into the liquid of the substituted bottle.
What had been doctored was the underside of the cap.


This mechanism caused the so-called Mentas Geyser Phenomenon to occur.
When the cap was twisted, the stopper released, causing the Mentas to drop.

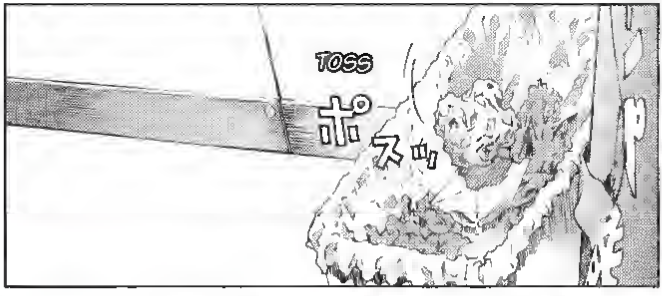

Hiroaki Okuda purchased a plastic repair agent of the same composition.
Further, we have confirmed that on May 30 in Akihabara

The whole operation is too sloppy.
This isn't like him.
So then
what was their actual objective?
There's no way a childish prank like that would kill Shitaragi.
Even if there was a poison mixed into the swapped bottle,
there wasn't the slightest risk of it ever passing Shitaragi's lips.
If they seriously want to call that an assassination attempt, it's not even funny.
...
No.
If they couldn't even foresee that, and all they did was create a disturbance...

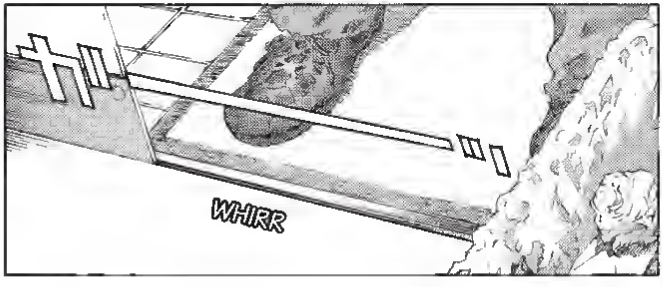
What if that in itself was their aim ...
Creating a scene at the venue.
If that's the case, then I get it.
a feint so they could freely play their final card...
Focus the cops on the venue,
Yes.
I thought he would've gotten involved.
the chubby one, didn't show up at the venue at all.
the last of the four,
Now that you say it, boss,
If so, then where, and what...?
But ...

MANGA CAFÉ KARA KARA
June 3, 18:30
G BRANCH MANGA CAFÉ, Y CITY,
KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

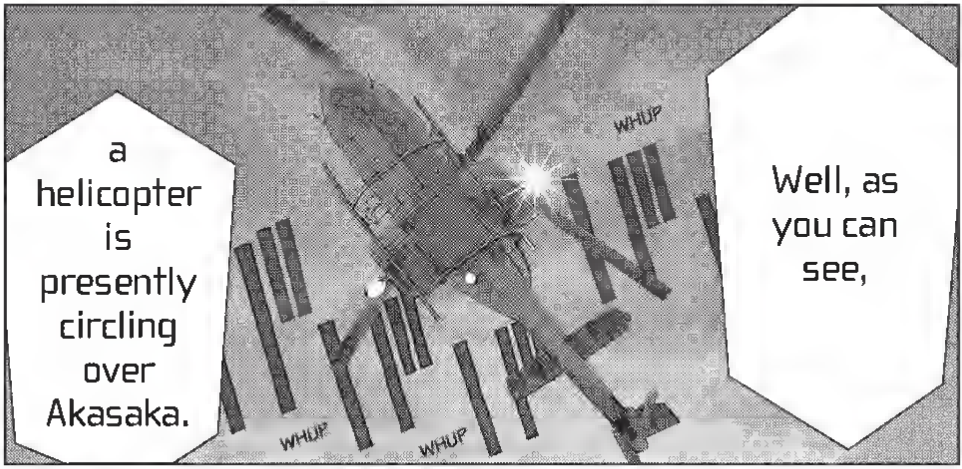
CALL 911 IF YOU SEE THESE MEN!!
RRIP

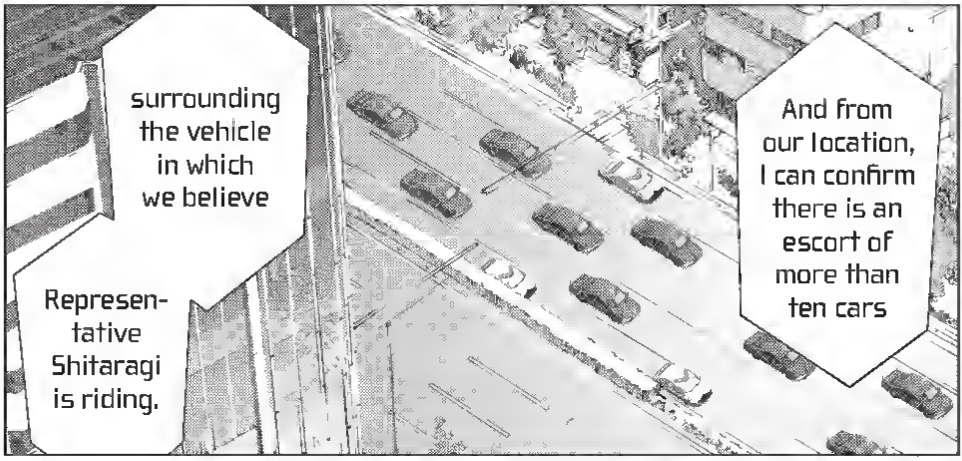

TOSS
ポス

KISH
KISH

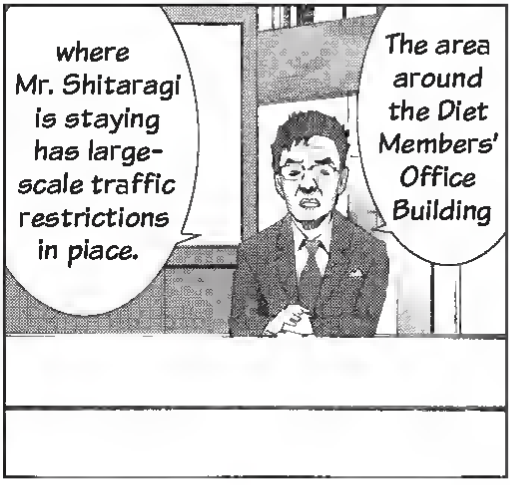

WHIRR

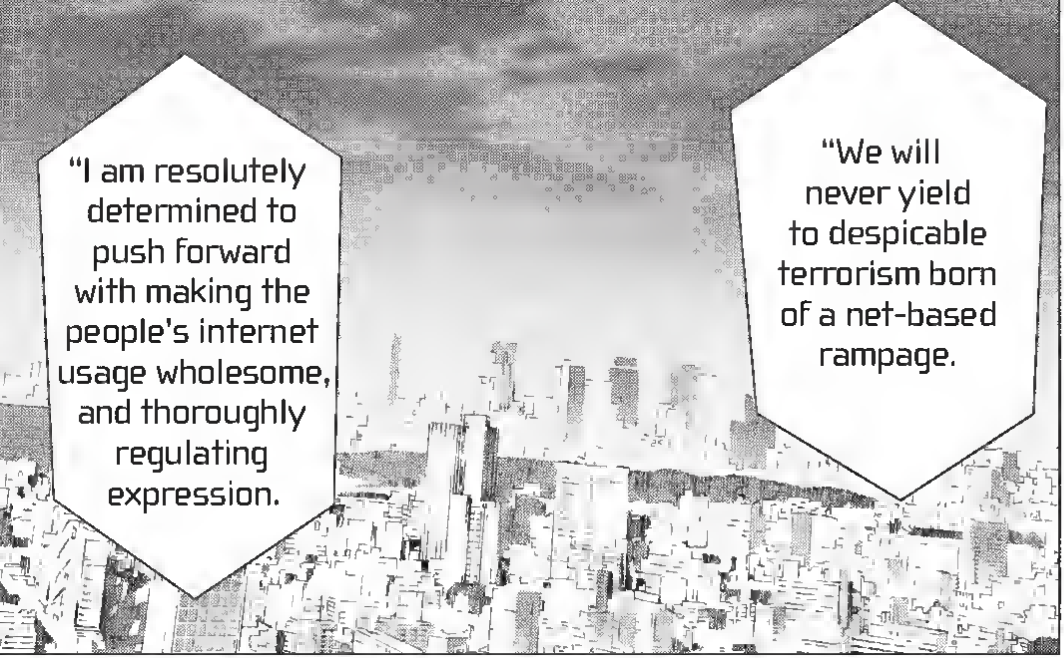
Hey.
Welcome, sir.
Terahara
Non-smoking, reclining seat booth.
Long Stay package, please.
OK, please write your name and address here.
Nelsin Kato-Ricette

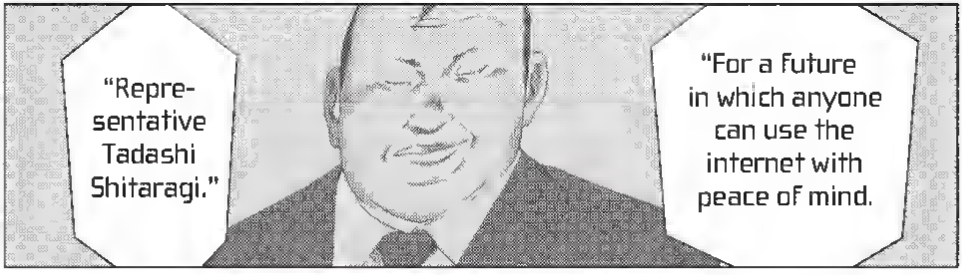

Well, as you can see,
WHUP
a helicopter is presently circling over Akasaka.
WHUP
WHUP


And from our location, I can confirm there is an escort of more than ten cars
surrounding the vehicle in which we believe
Represen-tative Shitaragi is riding.

Now then, we have Representa-tive Tadashi Shitaragi's statement
in response to the incident of the suspicious object today.

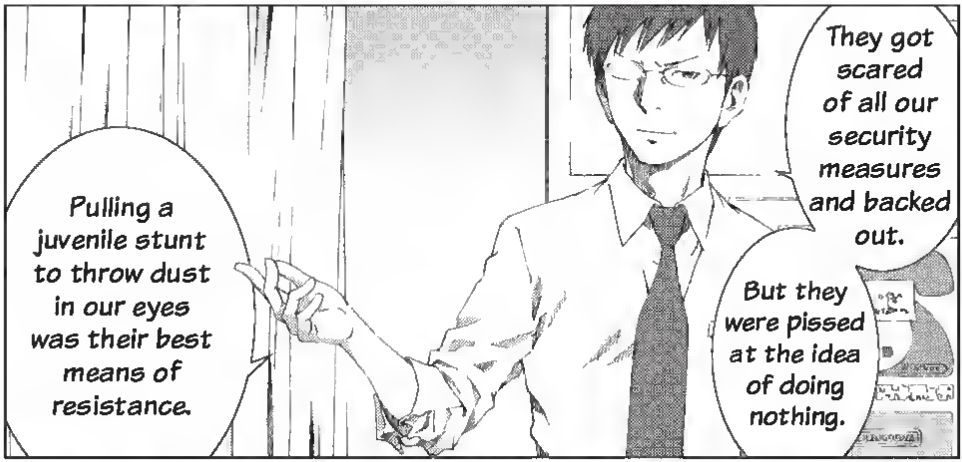

The area around the Diet Members' Office Building
where Mr. Shitaragi is staying has large-scale traffic restrictions in place.

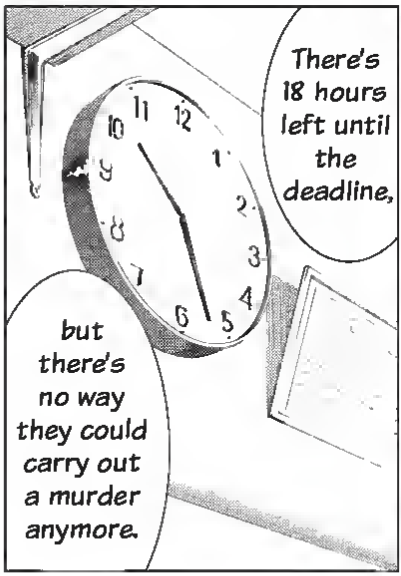

"I am resolutely determined to push forward with making the people's internet usage wholesome, and thoroughly regulating expression.
"We will never yield to despicable terrorism born of a net-based rampage.


"Repre-sentative Tadashi Shitaragi."
"For a future in which anyone can use the internet with peace of mind.

Well, look at that...
This is how it all turns out.
this fucker needs to shut up
he's one to talk! he's the one stirring shit up!
Is it our turn now?
Do something Okuda!

Boss.
The theory that the ruckus this afternoon was a feint...
Aren't you overthinking it a bit?
Am I?

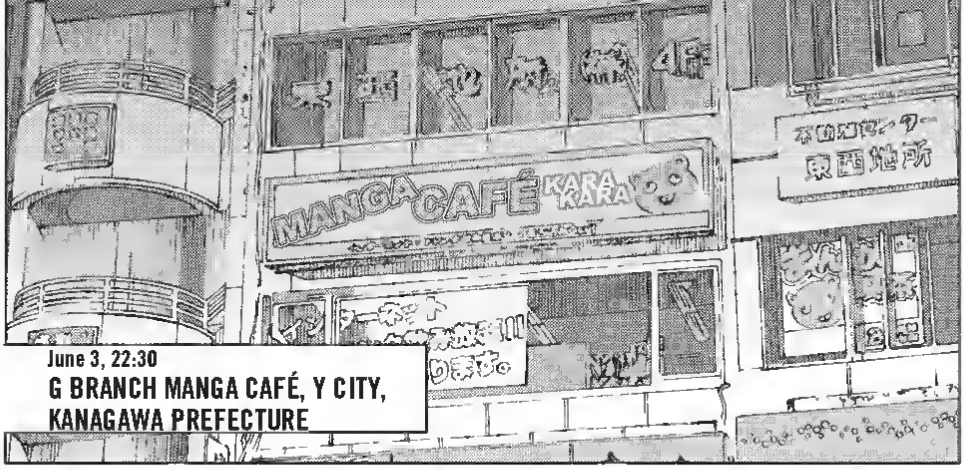

They got scared of all our security measures and backed out.
But they were pissed at the idea of doing nothing.
Pulling a juvenile stunt to throw dust in our eyes was their best means of resistance.


There's 18 hours left until the deadline,
but there's no way they could carry out a murder anymore.

54 hours have passed since they posted the death threat.

I'd like to think so.

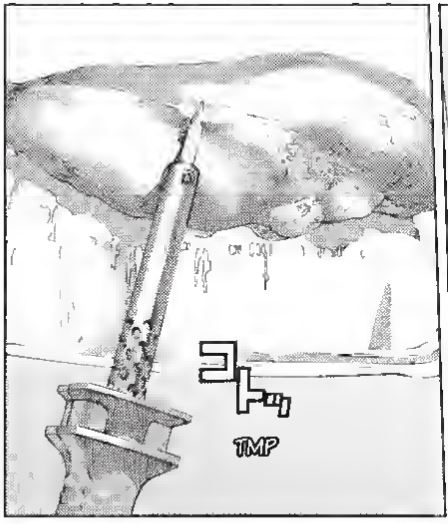
Also, people are not allowed to enter his room with electronics,
so cyber-attacks are meaning-less.
Ordinary citizens aren't allowed into the Diet Members' building where Shitaragi is staying.
They've set up a barricade to stop any attempts to plow through in a heavy vehicle.
The other danger you could consider is his food and drink,
but Shitaragi has been asked not to consume anything until the remaining time runs out.
HE'S COM-PLETELY WALLED OFF.
Except for MPD Security Police,
no one, not even Shitaragi's own family, can get near him.
Why r u posing?

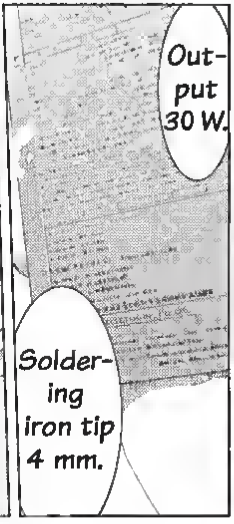

MANGA CAFÉ KARA KARA
June 3, 22:30
G BRANCH MANGA CAFÉ, Y CITY,
KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

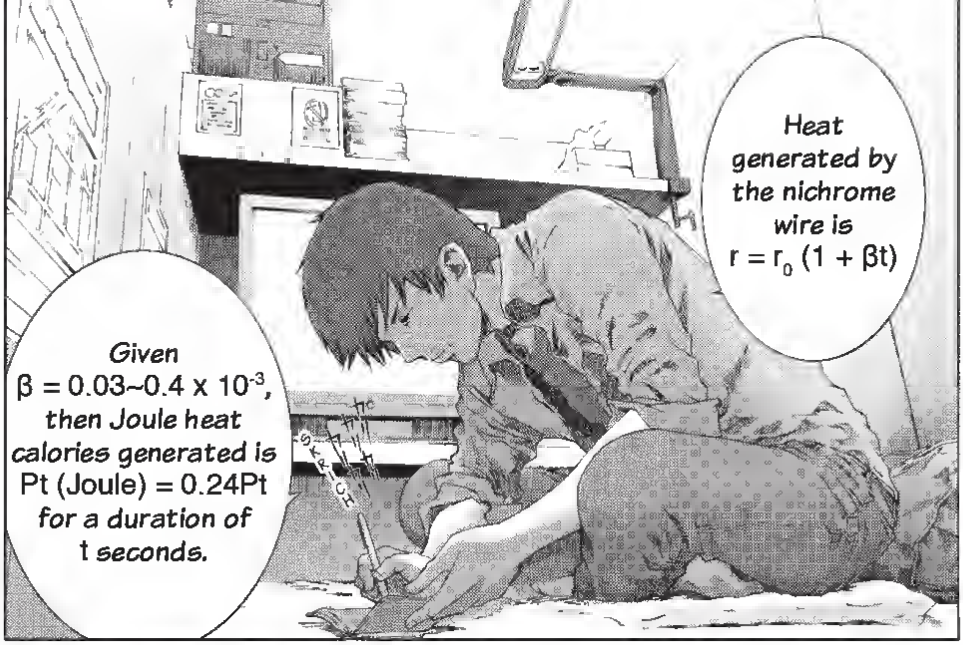
DOMESTIC SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST

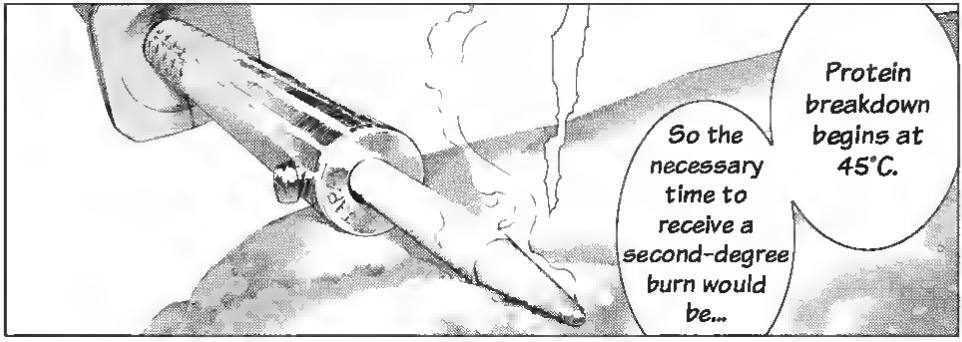
CHIK

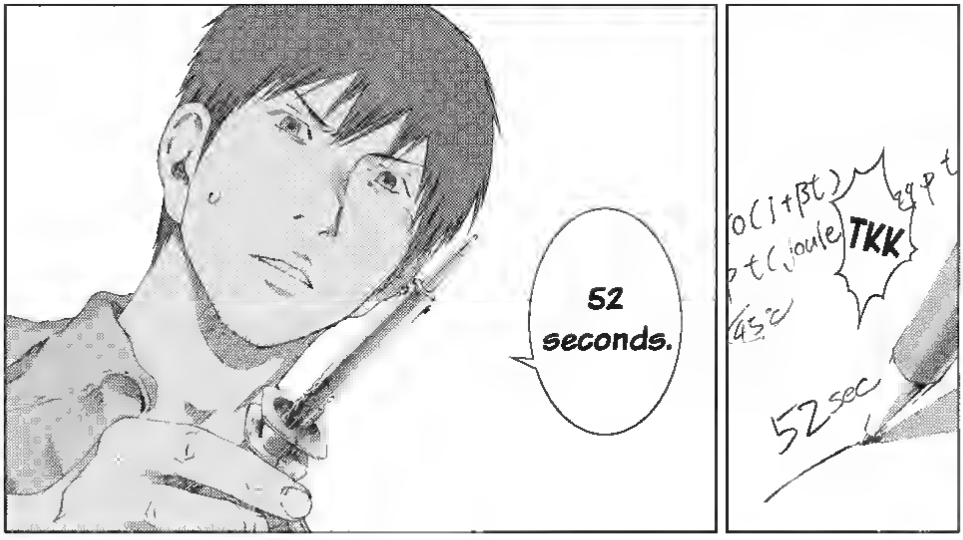
SNAP


TMP

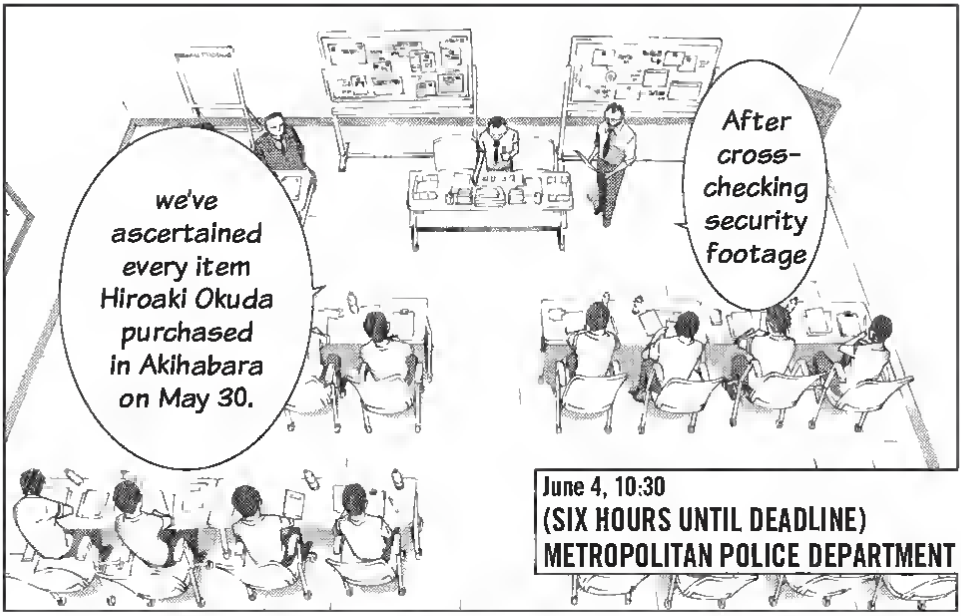

Output 30 W.
Soldering iron tip 4 mm.

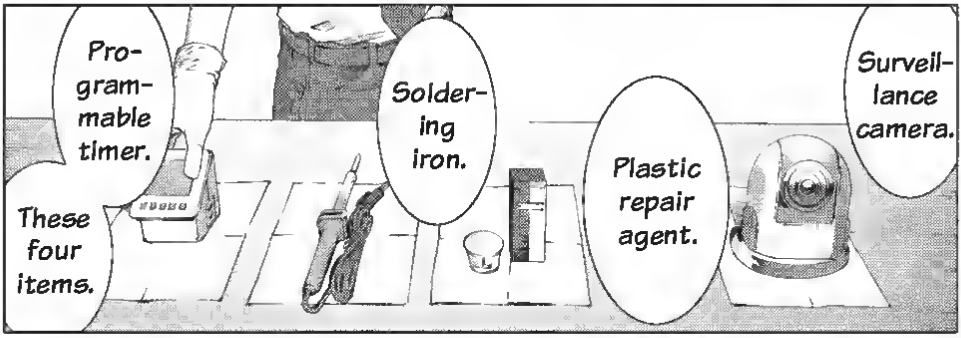

Heat generated by the nichrome wire is $r = r_0 (1 + \beta t)$
Given $\beta = 0.03\sim0.4 \times 10^{-3}$, then Joule heat calories generated is Pt (Joule) = 0.24Pt for a duration of t seconds.
SKRUCH


Protein breakdown begins at 45°C.
So the necessary time to receive a second-degree burn would be...

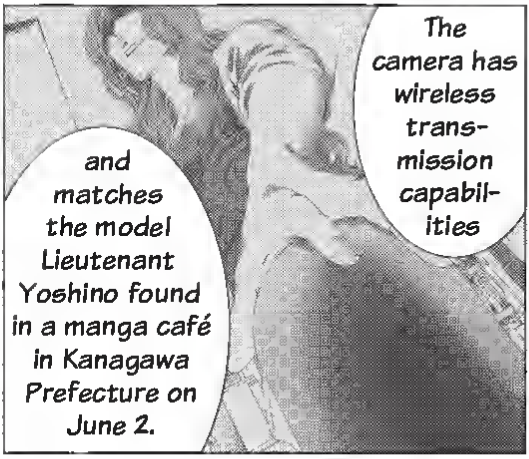

52 seconds.
TKK
52sec

Yeah.
Nearly as I calculated.
Sleeping pills.
Dormir
Low-malt beer.
Even though I could tell just by doing it,
it feels good to see the results match the math.
Programmable timer.
Digital timer
Soldering iron.
Let's do it.
GRIP
OK...


After cross-checking security footage
we've ascertained every item Hiroaki Okuda purchased in Akihabara on May 30.
June 4, 10:30
(SIX HOURS UNTIL DEADLINE)
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

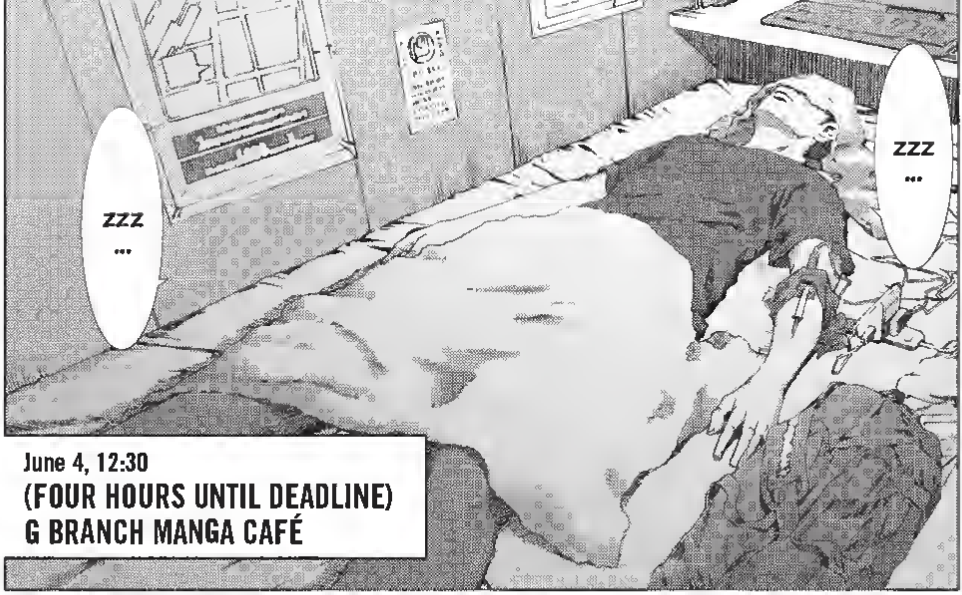

Programmable timer.
Soldering iron.
Surveillance camera.
These four items.
Plastic repair agent.

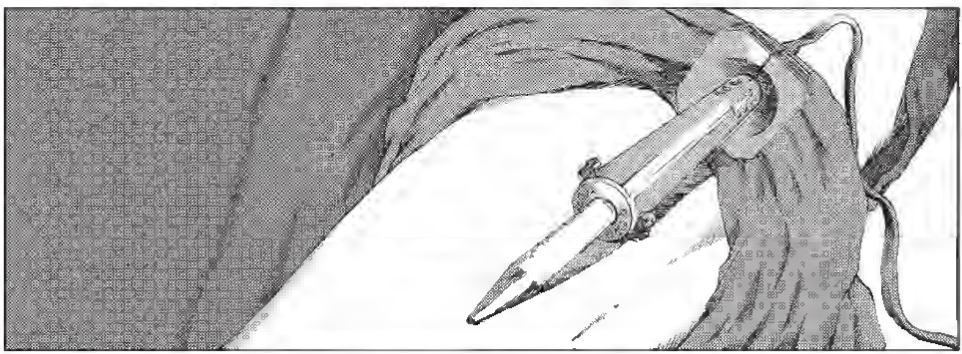
the repair agent was the same used in the doctored bottle at the beverage event yesterday.
In addition, we were able to confirm that
PROPERAR


The camera has wireless transmission capabilities
and matches the model Lieutenant Yoshino found in a manga café in Kanagawa Prefecture on June 2.

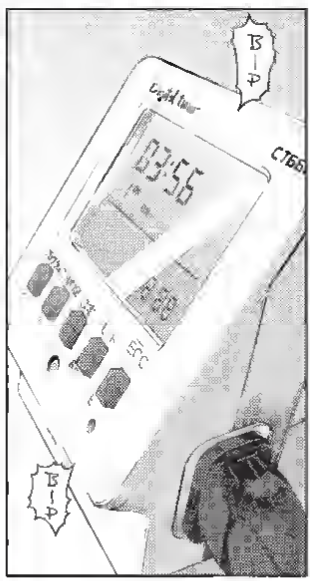
Digital timer
ECO
They're sold at household appliance shops as a way to save electricity.
It's a device that plugs into a wall socket that powers on or off at specified times.
I get the soldering iron,
but explain the timer to me.
I see.
So it's a timing device.
Apparently they're often used to regulate aquarium lights.
Most households use them to cut down the standby power consumption of their appliances.
The combination gives a sense of sinister intent.
A soldering iron and a timer...

It's not inconceivable,
but he bought too few items for such a thing.
You don't think
he's making a time bomb or something...
To be sure, it seems unnatural that he only bought
a soldering iron and a timer.
If he wants something electronic, he would at least need a circuit board and electronic parts,
but Okuda didn't even buy solder to put it all together.
Maybe
it's meant for a surprisingly simple purpose.


ZZZ
...
ZZZ
...
June 4, 12:30
(FOUR HOURS UNTIL DEADLINE)
G BRANCH MANGA CAFÉ



ZZZ
...
ZZZ
...

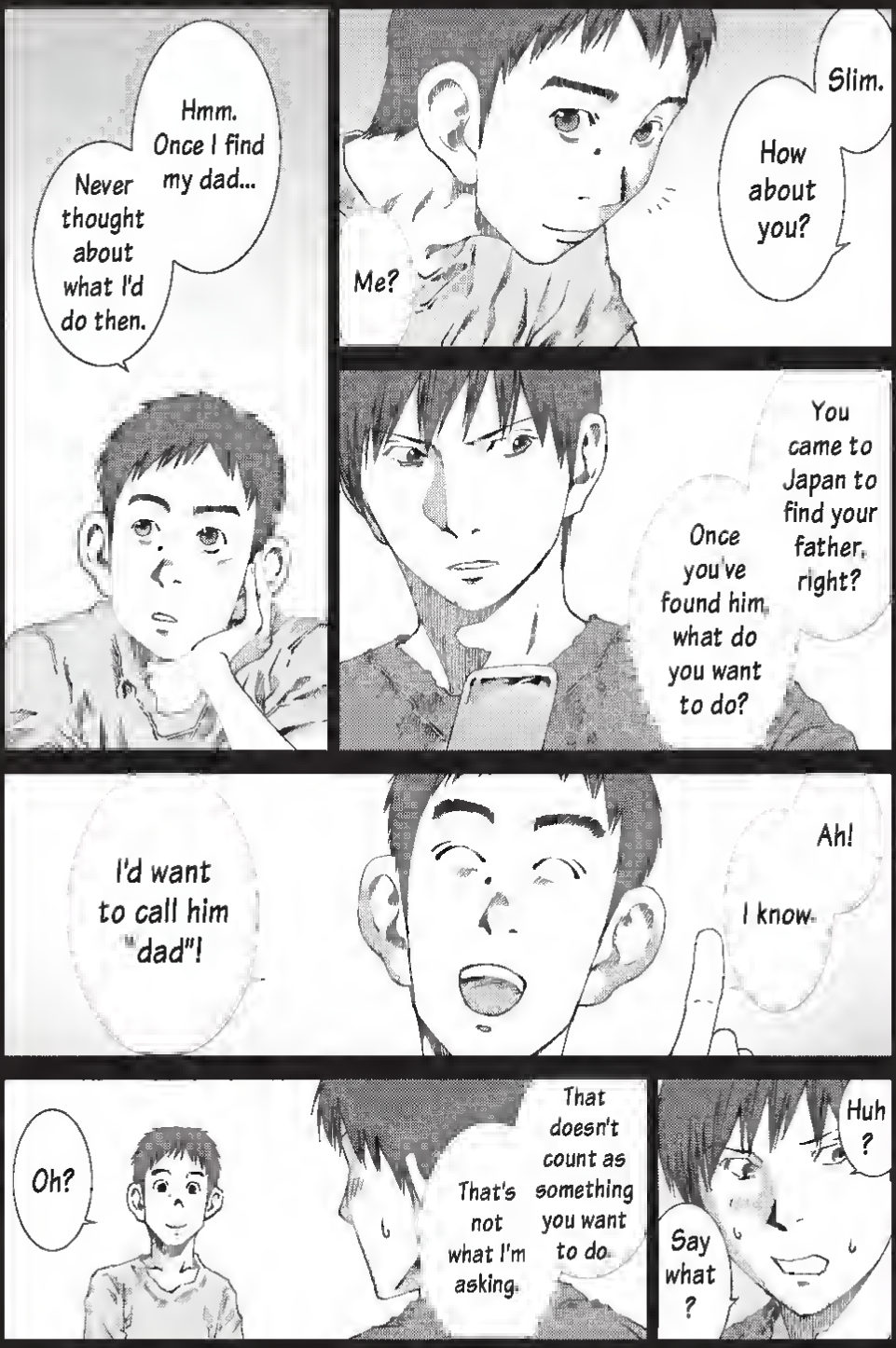

BIP
03:56
BIP

File 018
I'll stake the honor of the force on it.
We will, I promise.
A soldering iron
and a timing device, what for...?
He's completely walled off.
zzz...
zzz...

File
018

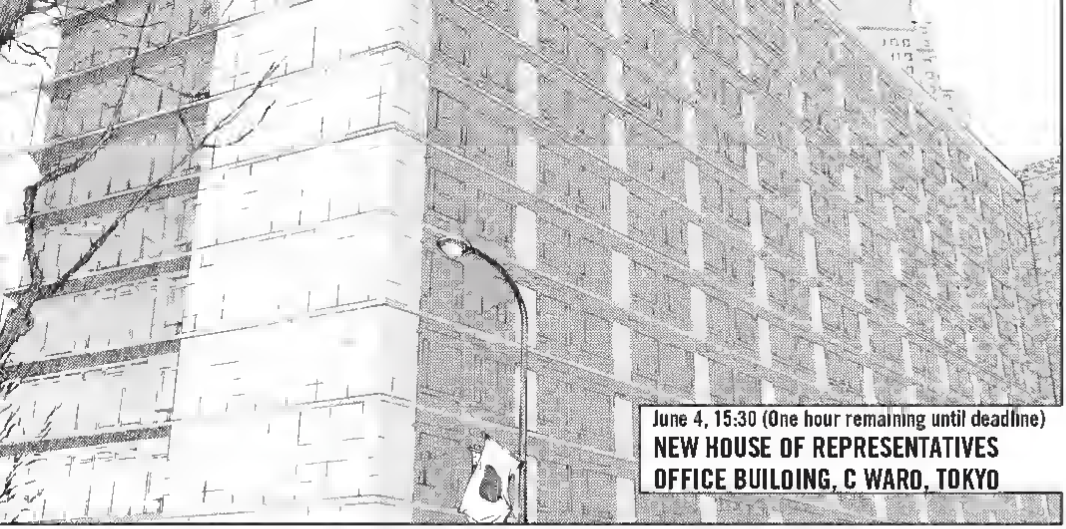
PROPHECY

Hm?
Hey, Gates.
... Gates.
How could I?
Got my hands full just putting food on the table.
You have any dreams for the future, Gates?
That's not true.
I think a smart guy like you could do anything!
What a waste.

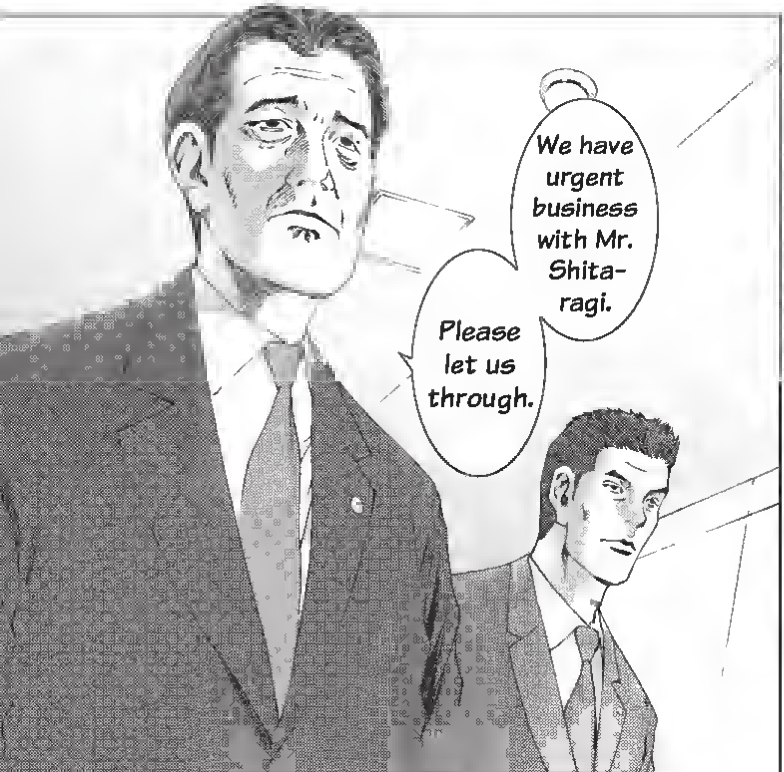

Hmm. Once I find my dad...
Never thought about what I'd do then.
Slim.
How about you?
Me?
You came to Japan to find your father, right?
Once you've found him, what do you want to do?
Ah!
I know.
I'd want to call him "dad"!
Oh?
That's not what I'm asking.
That doesn't count as something you want to do.
Huh?
Say what?

What I mean is,
your dad abandoned you, and now he's living carefree in Japan.
Don't you wanna deck him or something?
Never even thought of anything like that!
If I get to meet my dad
that's all I'll need!

TWITCH
VVRRRRR
koff
koff
Good ...
It went well.


June 4, 15:30 (One hour remaining until deadline)
NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE BUILDING, C WARD, TOKYO

KLOP
KLOP

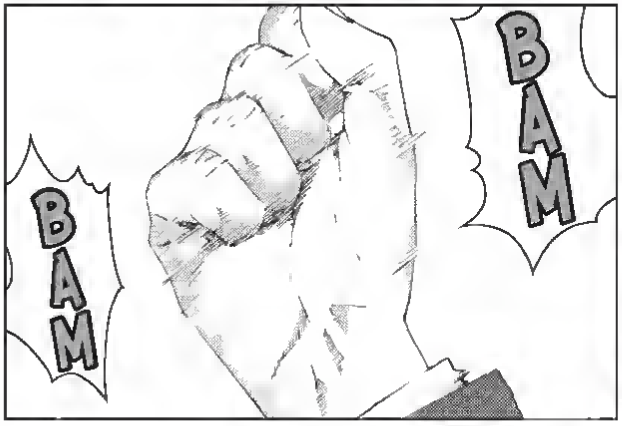

We have urgent business with Mr. Shitaragi.
Please let us through.

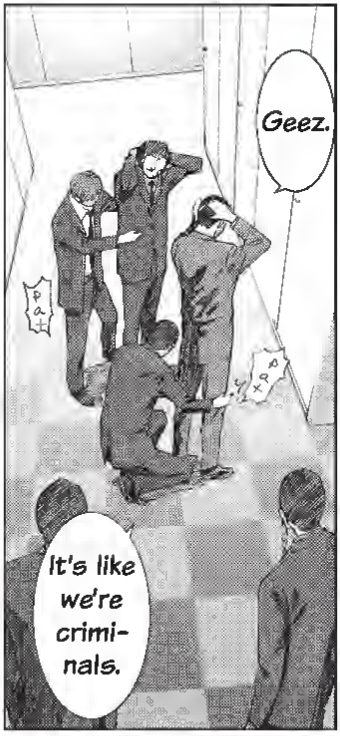
!

I'm sorry but we must do a pat-down.
Secretary-General of the Democratic Party Okano and Policy Chief Hosoda.
You can't possibly not know who we are.

Hell, I'll strip if you want.
Fine, fine.
Knock yourselves out.

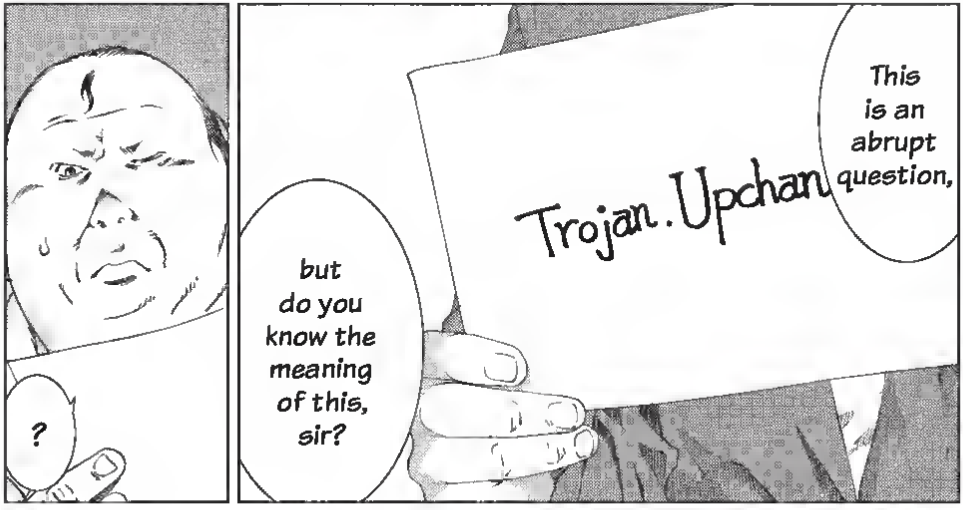
Yes.
Is this Shitaragi's room?

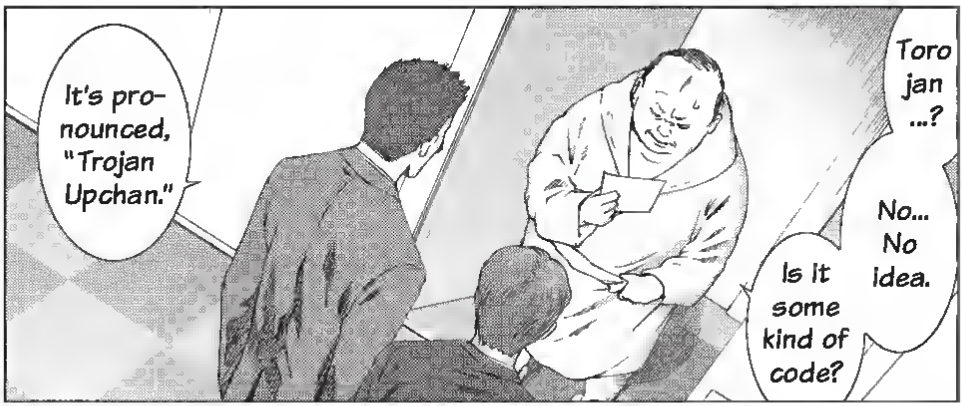

BAM
BAM

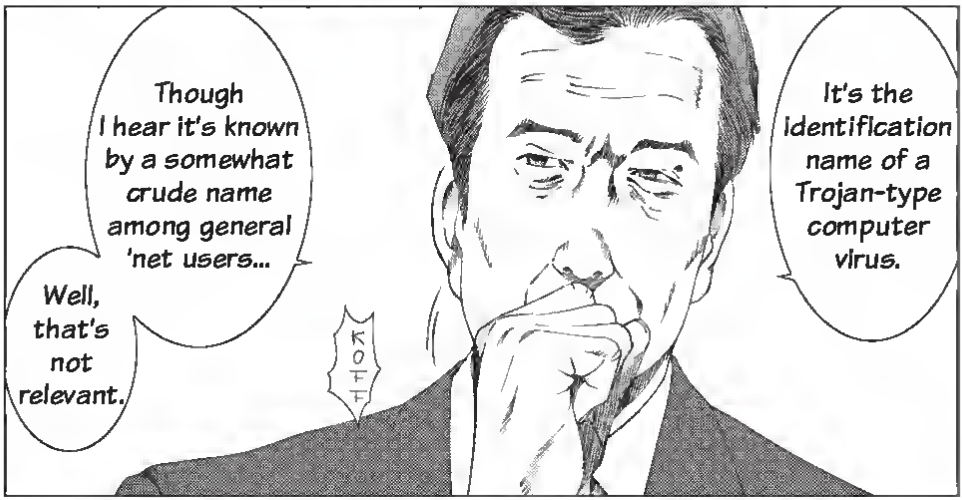

Geez.
pat
pat
It's like we're criminals.

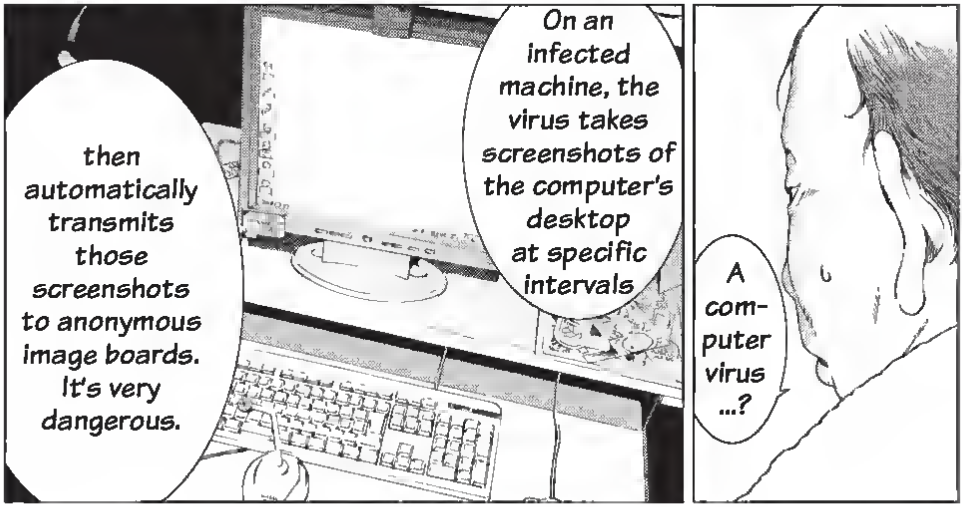
Secre-
tary-
General
Okano
...!
and
Policy
Chief
Hoso-
da...!
Oh
...

Huh
?
What's
this
about
?
Can you
spare
us a bit
of your
time?
Mr.
Shita-
ragi.
We have
some very
unfortunate
news.


?
but
do you
know the
meaning
of this,
sir?
Trojan.Upchan
This
is an
abrupt
question,


It's pronounced, "Trojan Upchan."
Toro jan ...?
No... No idea.
Is it some kind of code?

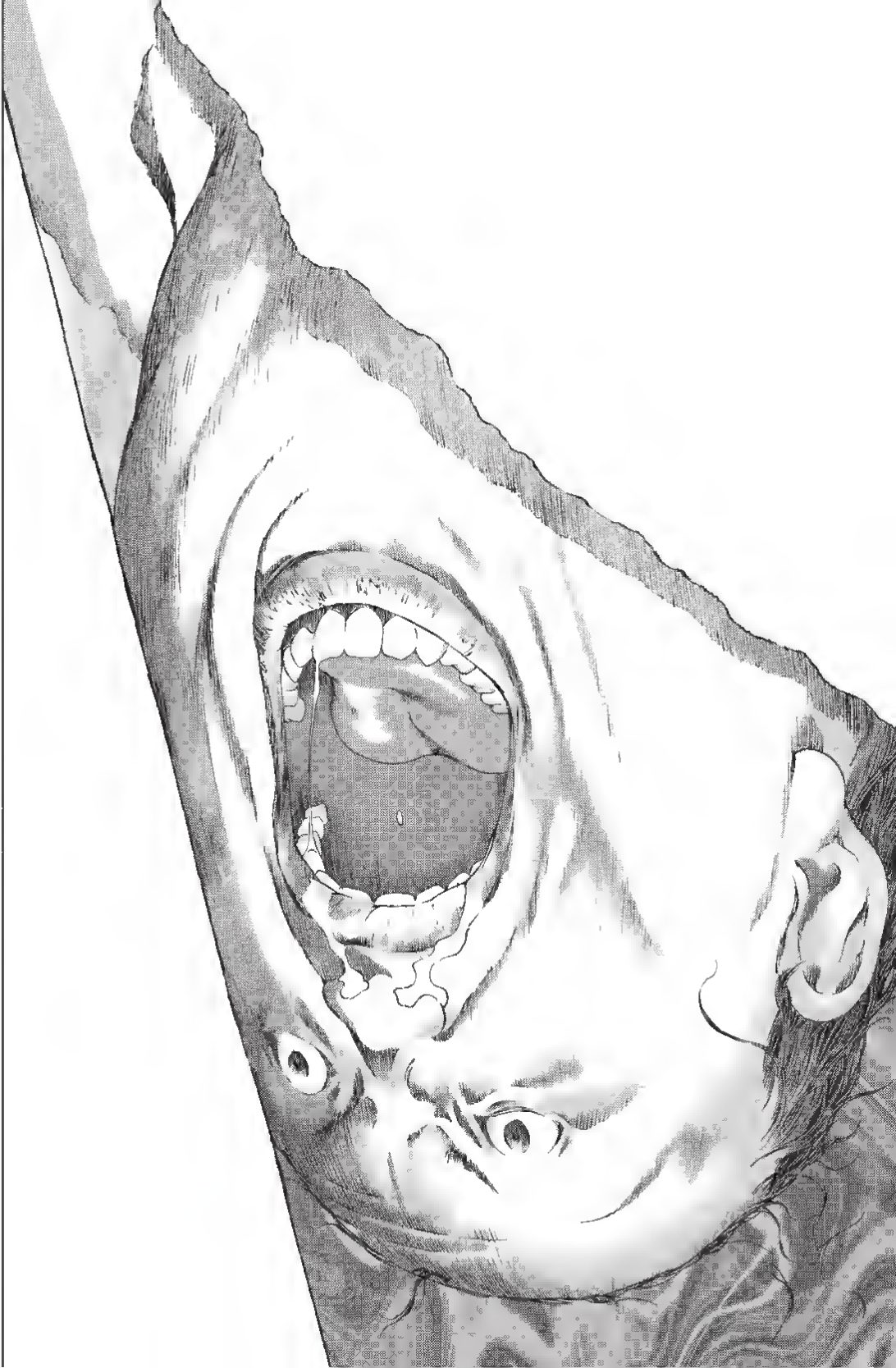

Though I hear it's known by a somewhat crude name among general 'net users...
Well, that's not relevant.
KOTI
It's the identification name of a Trojan-type computer virus.


then automatically transmits those screenshots to anonymous image boards. It's very dangerous.
On an infected machine, the virus takes screenshots of the computer's desktop at specific intervals
A computer virus ...?

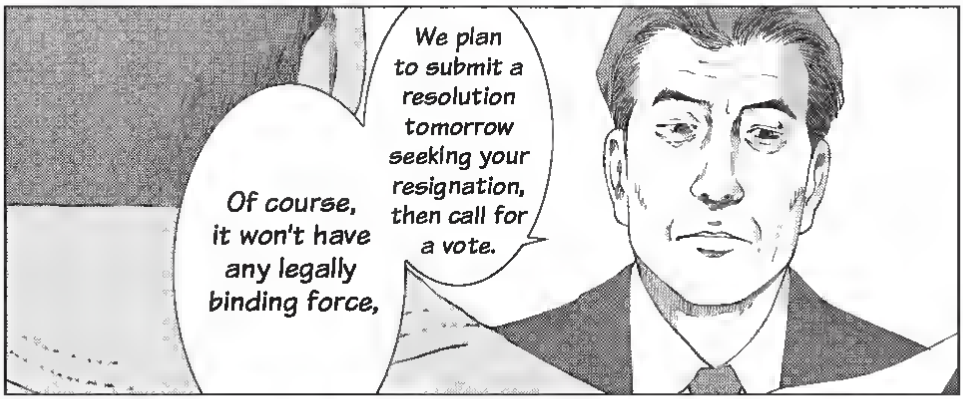
Mr. Shitaragi,
the 20 computers at your supporters association office...
Uhm... Sorry, but I don't see where this is leading.
What's this have to do with me?
We've learned that every single one of them
was infected with a subspecies of Trojan Upchan.

When you appeared on that TV program the other day
during the segment called "Considering the Future of the Internet,"
were periodically captured.
all of the computer screens at the association's office
This is a picture of what was posted on an anonymous image board today.

"My kids are still little so I worry about the information they're exposed to online."
"I completely agree, too."
"I approve of Mr. Shitaragi's proposal."
"I think the trend where people say whatever they want when they're anonymous should be curbed."
Did you order this?
Mr. Shitaragi.
"I think it's a wonderful idea. I fully endorse it."
@ VIEW PROFILE
255 TWEETS
255 FOLLOWING
255 FOLLOWERS
I completely agree, too
I approve of Mr. Shitaragi's proposal
TWEET
RECOMMENDED USERS LATEST VIEW ALL



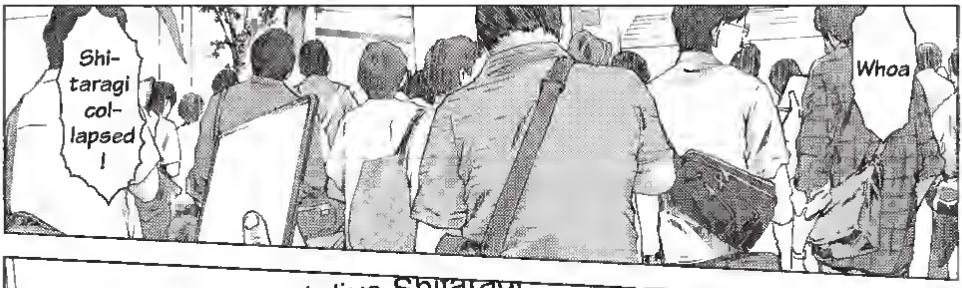
I'm sorry to say that at the recently held
Joint Plenary Meeting of Both Diet Houses, we unanimously decided to divest you of your party membership.


We plan to submit a resolution tomorrow seeking your resignation, then call for a vote.
Of course, it won't have any legally binding force,

but if you would solemnly accept this as the collective will of the Diet—
WHUD
SIR !
MR. SHI-TARA-GI!

BREAKING NEWS

DIET MEMBER SHITARAGI RUSHED TO HOSPITA




Alert!! Representative Shitaragi Collapses!! Wrath of God!

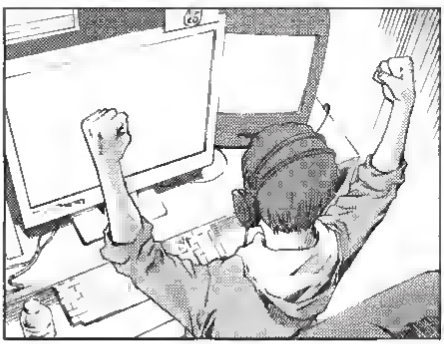
Anonymous@happening_live 6/4 (Tue) 16:35:01 ID:ir7vie
u deserve it asshooooooooooooooole

Anonymous@happening_live 6/4 (Tue) 16:35:34 ID:jiersv
Shitaragi kicked the fuckin bucketttttttttttt

Anonymous@happening_live 6/4 (Tue) 16:35:42 ID:misi
schadenfreude roflmao

Anonymous@happening_live 6/4 (Tue) 16:35:55 ID:Lo
had it comin yooooooooooooooooooo

Anonymous@happening_live 6/4 (Tue) 16:36:12 ID:se

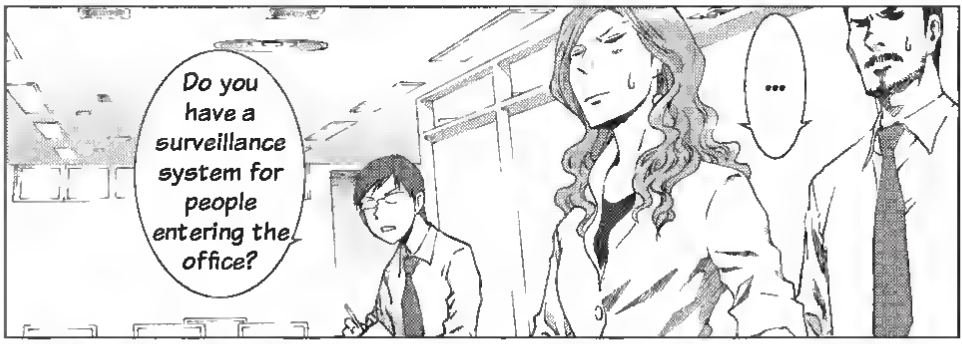


So he won again...
Anonymous@happening_live 6/4 (Tue) 16:38:12 ID:pwwesw9ji0

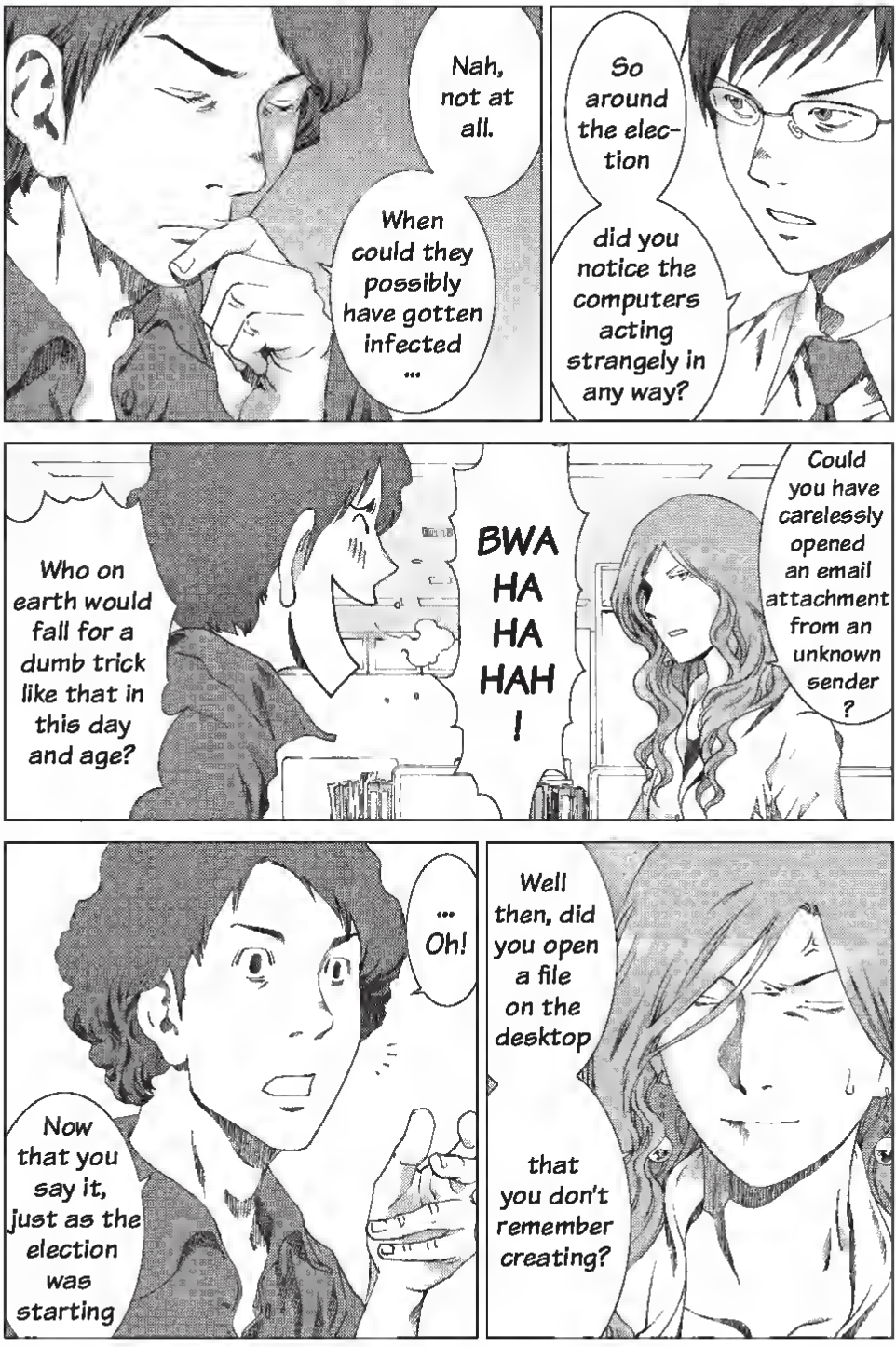
I want to know the meaning of defeat
Anonymous@happening_live 6/4 (Tue) 16:38:12 ID:hiedqw23l0

TADASHI SHITARAGI SUPPORTERS ASSOCI
June 4, 16:45
TAOASHI SHITARAGI SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION OFFICE

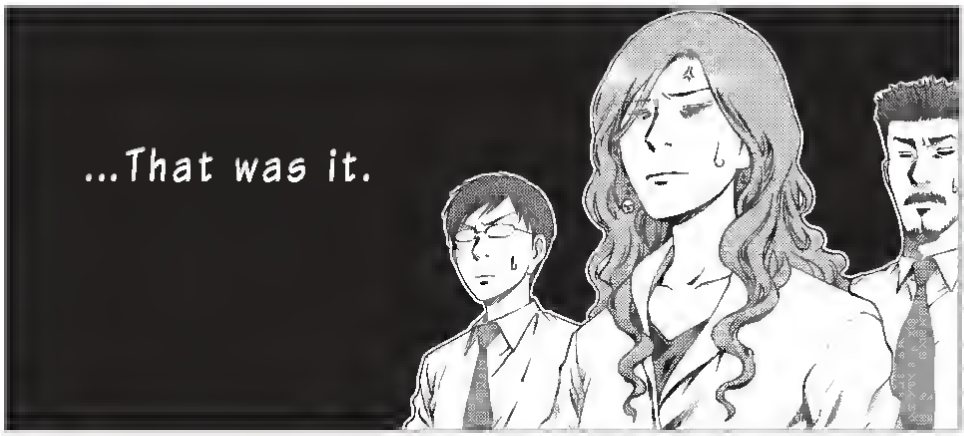
Our cover's blown, eh? Oh well!
DAMN! HAH HAH HAH HAH!


Do you have a surveillance system for people entering the office?
...

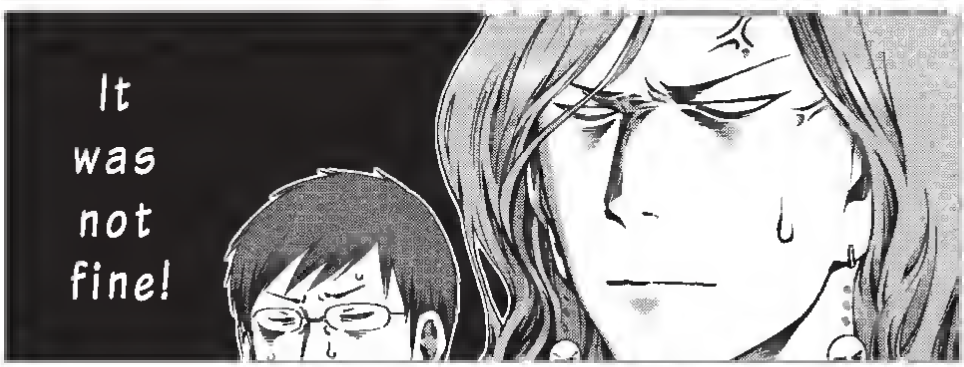
Is that so?
Honestly, we rarely do back-ground checks.
but we get lots of student volunteers when it's campaign time.
We don't normally get any outsiders coming in,

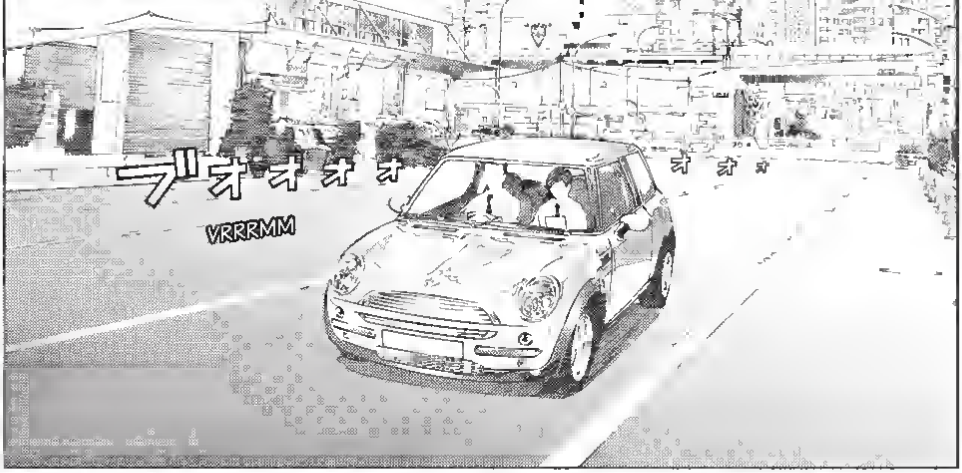

Nah, not at all.
When could they possibly have gotten infected ...
So around the election
did you notice the computers acting strangely in any way?
Could you have carelessly opened an email attachment from an unknown sender?
BWA HA HA HAH!
Who on earth would fall for a dumb trick like that in this day and age?
Well then, did you open a file on the desktop
that you don't remember creating?
... Oh!
Now that you say it, just as the election was starting

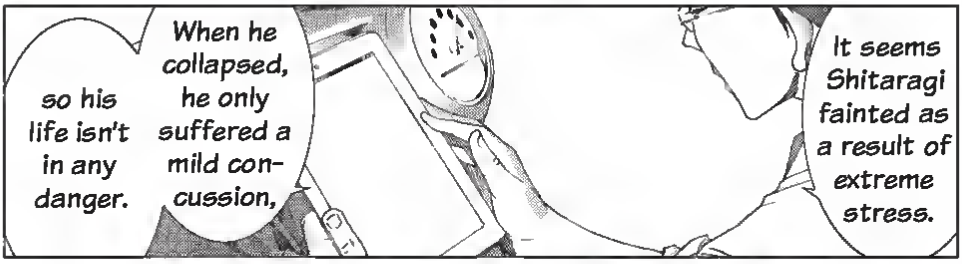
that had seemed to have just created itself...
there was this unnamed folder


...That was it.

and I deleted it right away, so I thought it'd be fine!
Well, but, when I opened it, there was nothing inside,


It was not fine!


ブオオオオ
VRRRMM
オオオ


It seems Shitaragi fainted as a result of extreme stress.
When he collapsed, he only suffered a mild concussion,
so his life isn't in any danger.

He's done for as a Diet member though.

Okuda's actions here haven't merely
buried a single paranoiac named Tadashi Shitaragi in darkness.

From now on, when people with skeletons in their closet make a half-hearted attempt to regulate the 'net,
this is their likely fate. That's the lesson he's left for posterity.
All without spilling a drop of blood.
For him to pull off something like this...

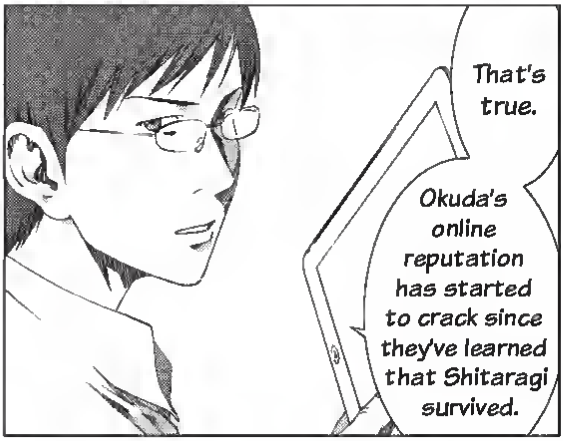
Boss.
Best not say stuff like that...

I take it back.
Pre-tend you never heard it.

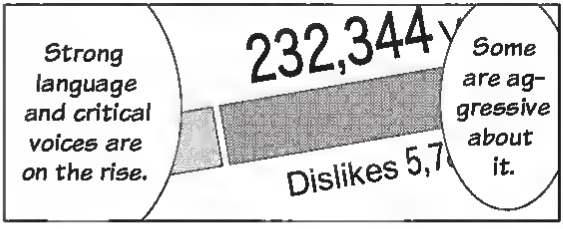
He may be the enemy, but I'm tempted to applaud his skill.

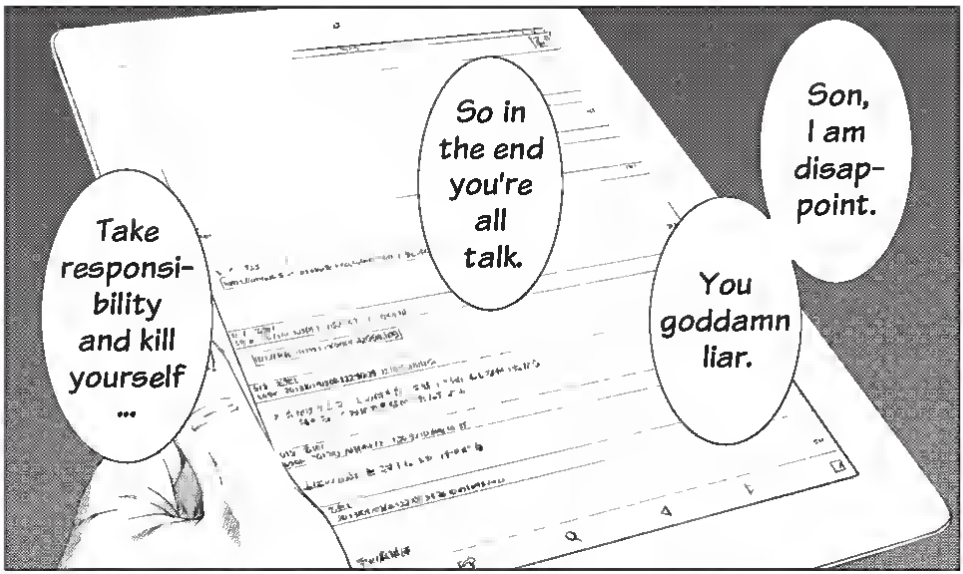
But there's something that's not quite clear about this one.
Why did Okuda use the expression "murder"?

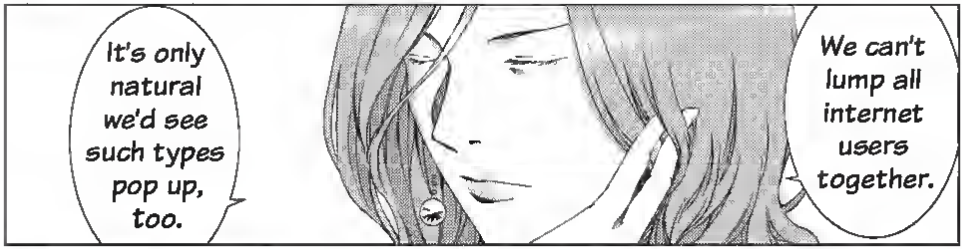
If this was the outcome he'd expected from the outset,
there was no need for him to deliberately declare "murder."

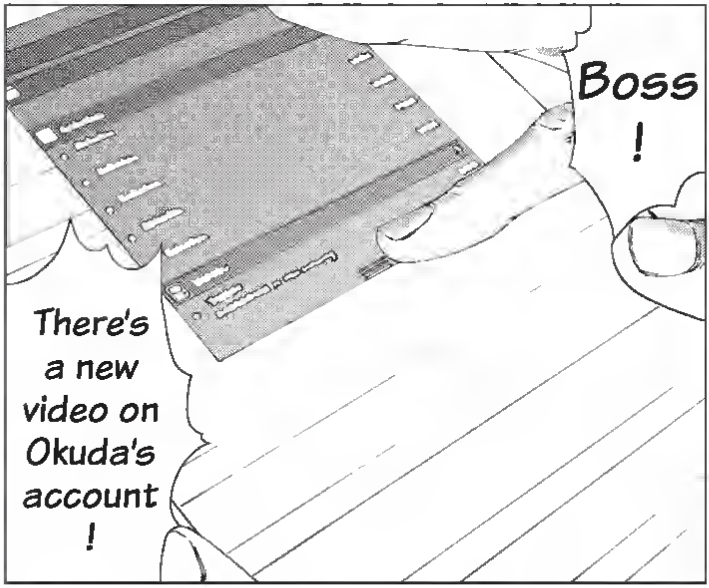

That's true.
Okuda's online reputation has started to crack since they've learned that Shitaragi survived.

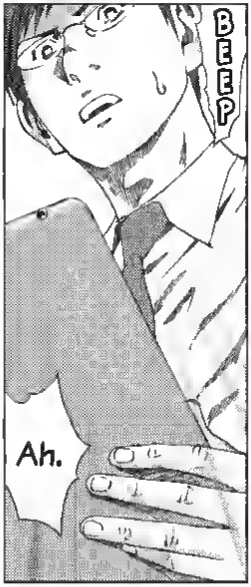
As a point of fact, he ended his life as a politician,
so you could say he essentially killed his political career,
but it's a real stretch.


Strong language and critical voices are on the rise.
232,344
Dislikes 5,7
Some are aggressive about it.

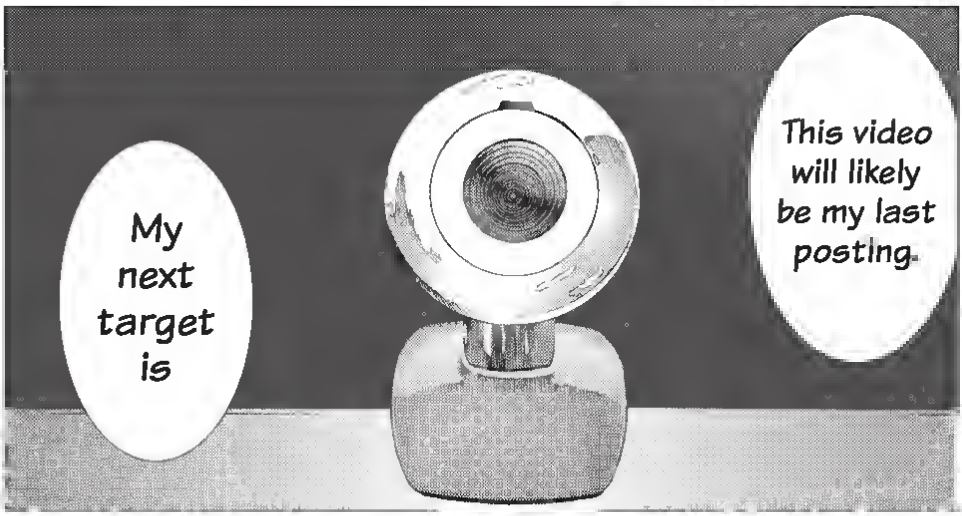

Son, I am disap-point.
So in the end you're all talk.
You goddamn liar.
Take responsi-bility and kill yourself ...


We can't lump all internet users together.
It's only natural we'd see such types pop up, too.


Boss !
There's a new video on Okuda's account !


BEEP
Ah.

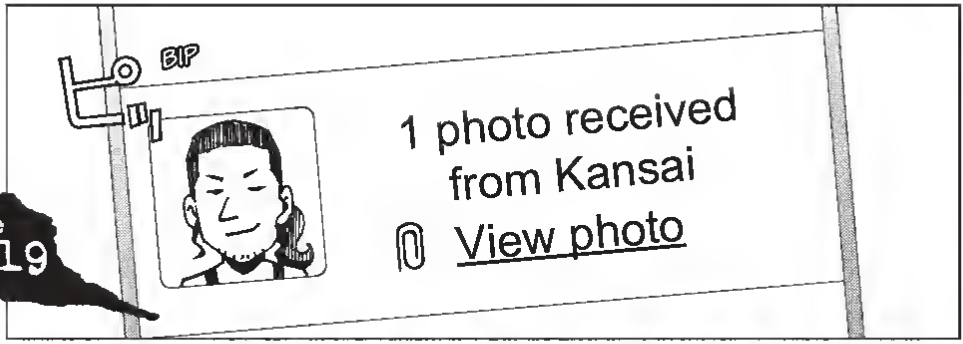
Here's my warning for tomorrow.


My next target is
This video will likely be my last posting.

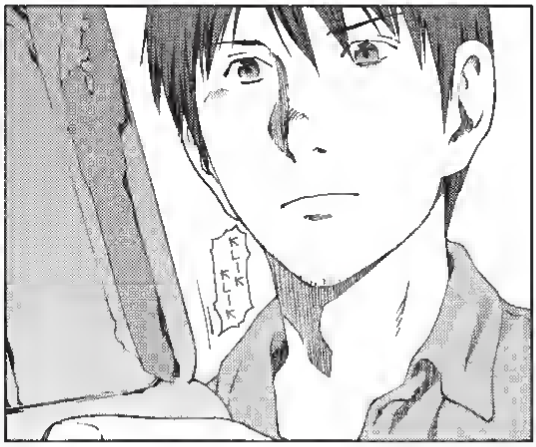
the four-man group responsible for a string of terrorist acts
going by the name of "Paper-boy."
Under the pretext of "passing sentences," these good-for-nothing scum bastards
lynch people at the root of flame wars
and bask in the feeling of being Internet gods.

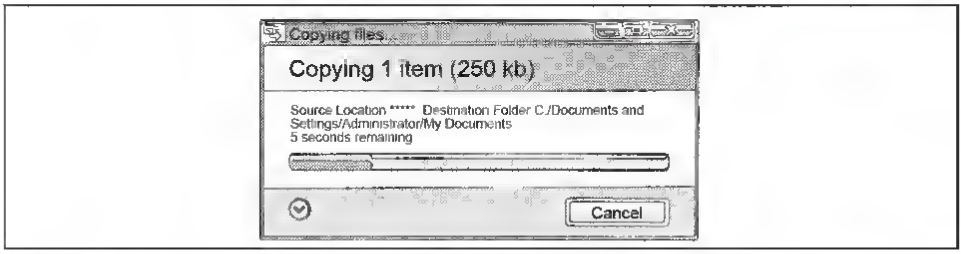
I hereby pass sentence on these fools.
They will be executed within the next 24 hours.
And I promise
to stream it live on the internet.
SUICIDE TRANSMISSION INCOMING!!

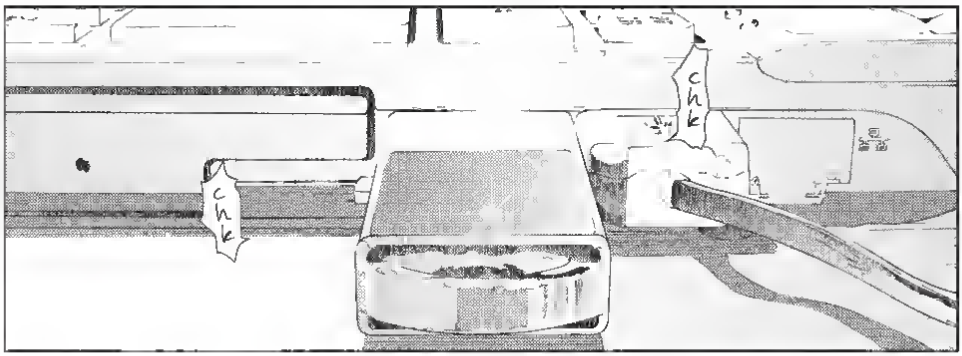
File 019


BIP
1 photo received
from Kansai
View photo

CHIK

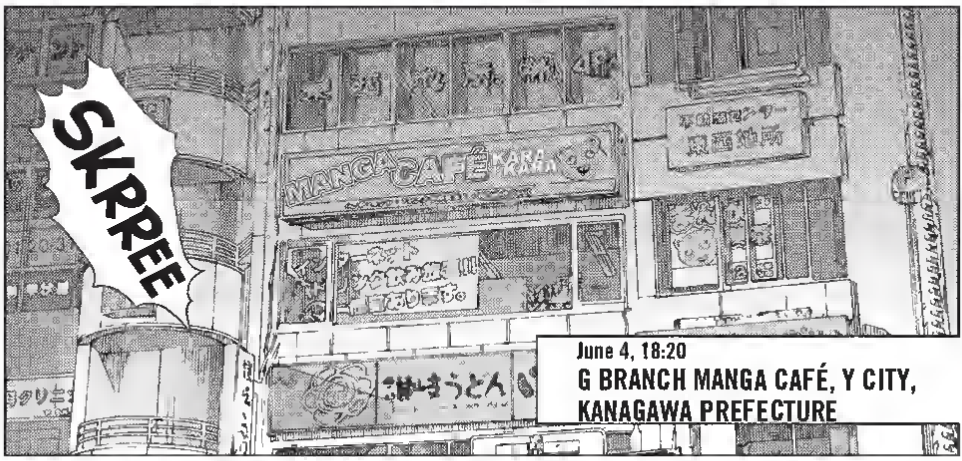

KLIK
KLIK


Copying files...
Copying 1 item (250 kb)
Source Location ***** Destination Folder C:/Documents and Settings/Administrator/My Documents
5 seconds remaining
Cancel

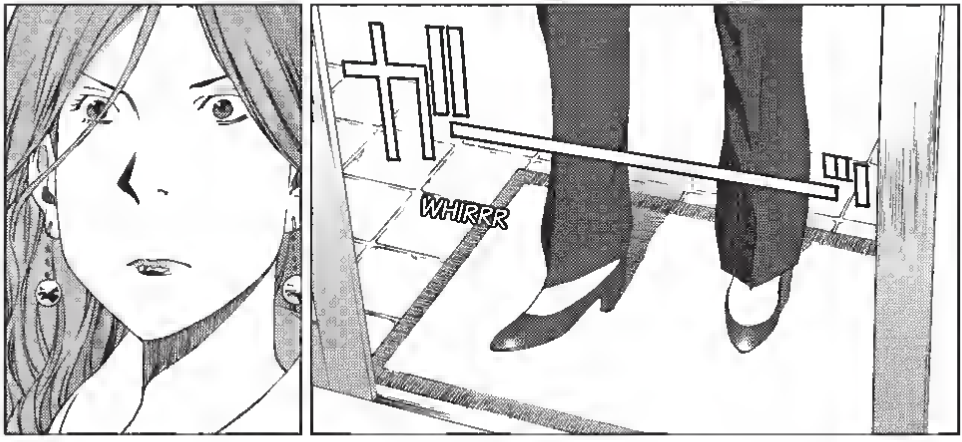

chk
chk

Yeah.
Prelim-inary prep all set for now.
All good?
Oh.
Then let's go.
'K.
Nelsin kato-Ricarte
WHIRRR
THANK FOR COM TODAY

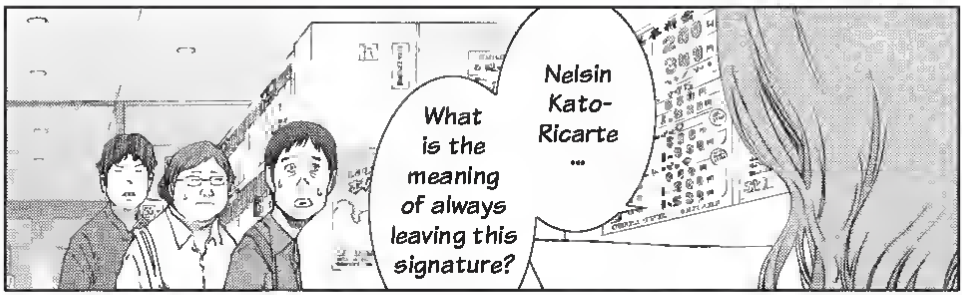
File
019

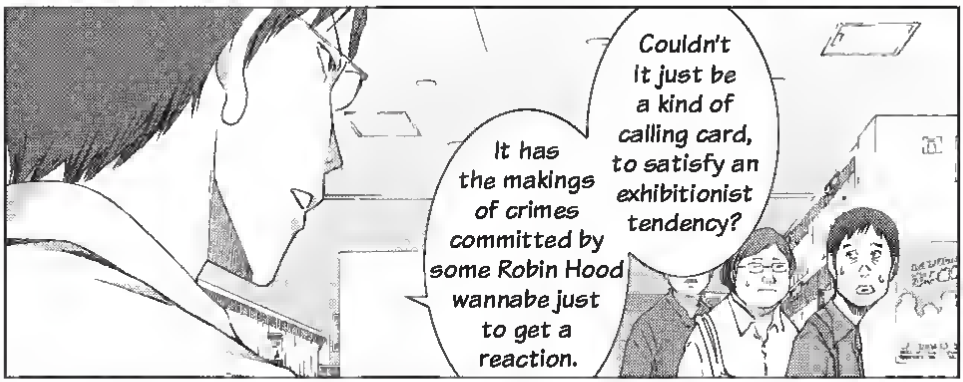

SKRREE
MANGA CAFE KARA
June 4, 18:20
G BRANCH MANGA CAFÉ, Y CITY,
KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

Got it!
CHAK
According to the analysis by the Cyber Force, the video was posted from booth 8 at G Branch.
The log shows him being here up until 20 minutes ago.


WHIRRR

What are you doing ?
...?
Uh ...
Oh... uhm ...
The clerk
is gone ...
Nelson Kate-Ricarte
TSk
The same pattern yet again...


What is the meaning of always leaving this signature?
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte ...

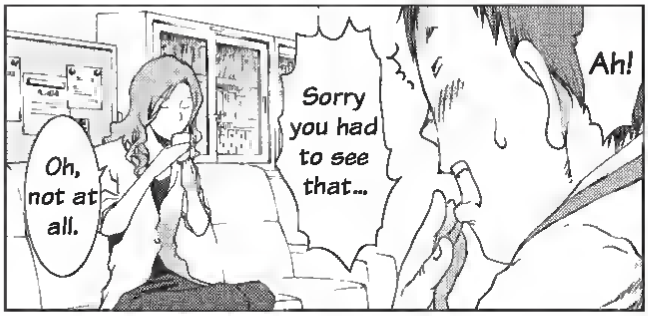

It has the makings of crimes committed by some Robin Hood wannabe just to get a reaction.
Couldn't it just be a kind of calling card, to satisfy an exhibitionist tendency?

It seems they've begun a background check on "Nelsin Kato-Ricarte."
Well, I knew Public Security would make a move eventually.

If that was all then that'd be fine,
but it feels like we're overlooking something important.

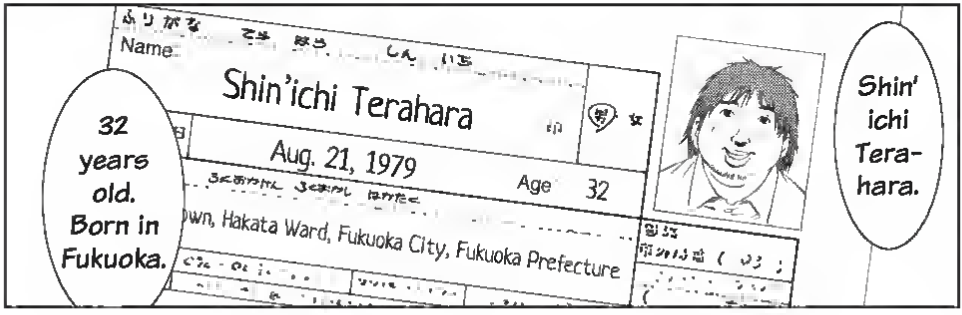
...!
Right. Public Security ...

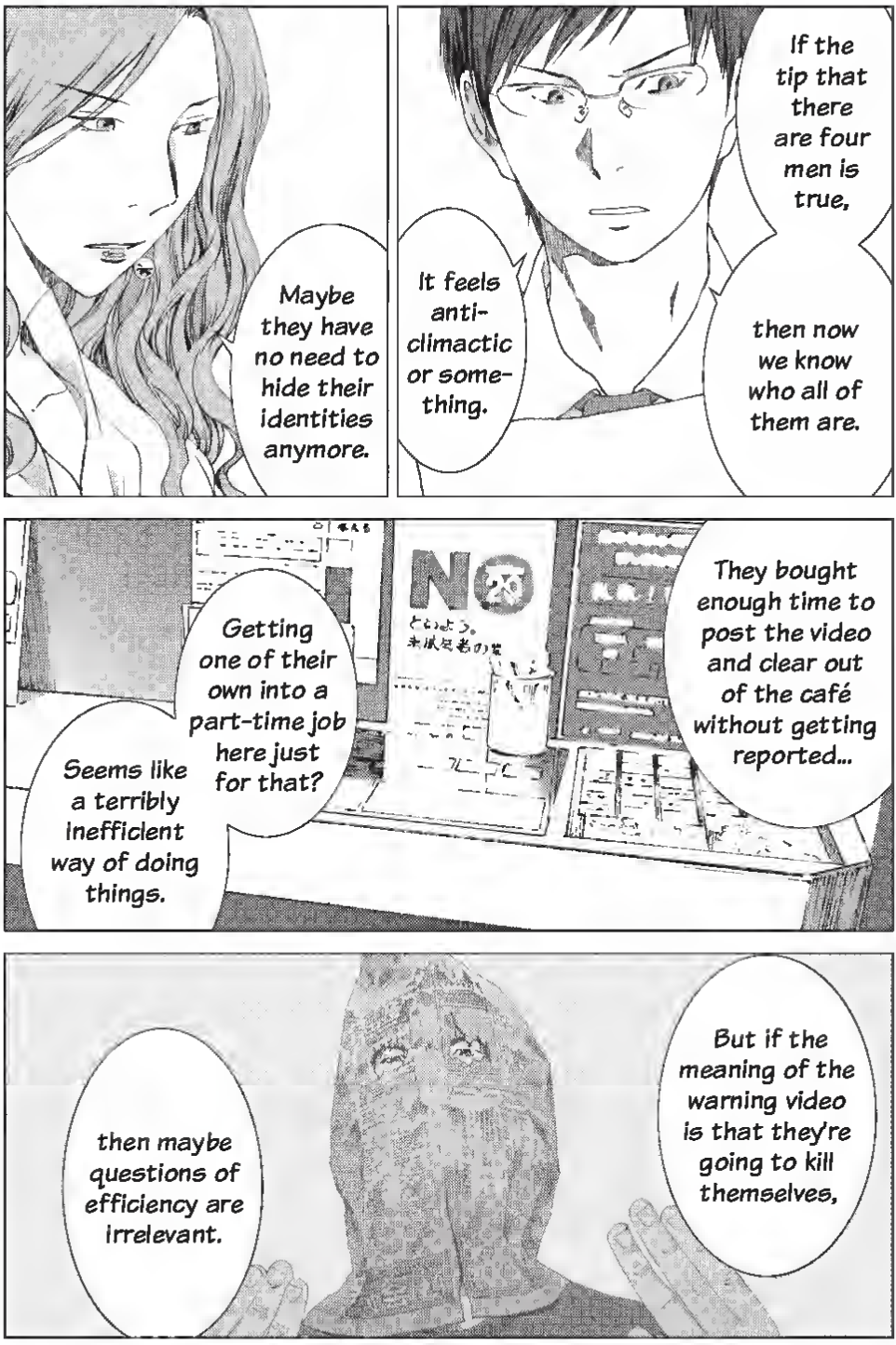
I'm in big trouble! That idiot newbie's gone AWOL his first day on the job!
No, no. So what if you haven't slept?!
Wha ?! You can't ?
No way at all?

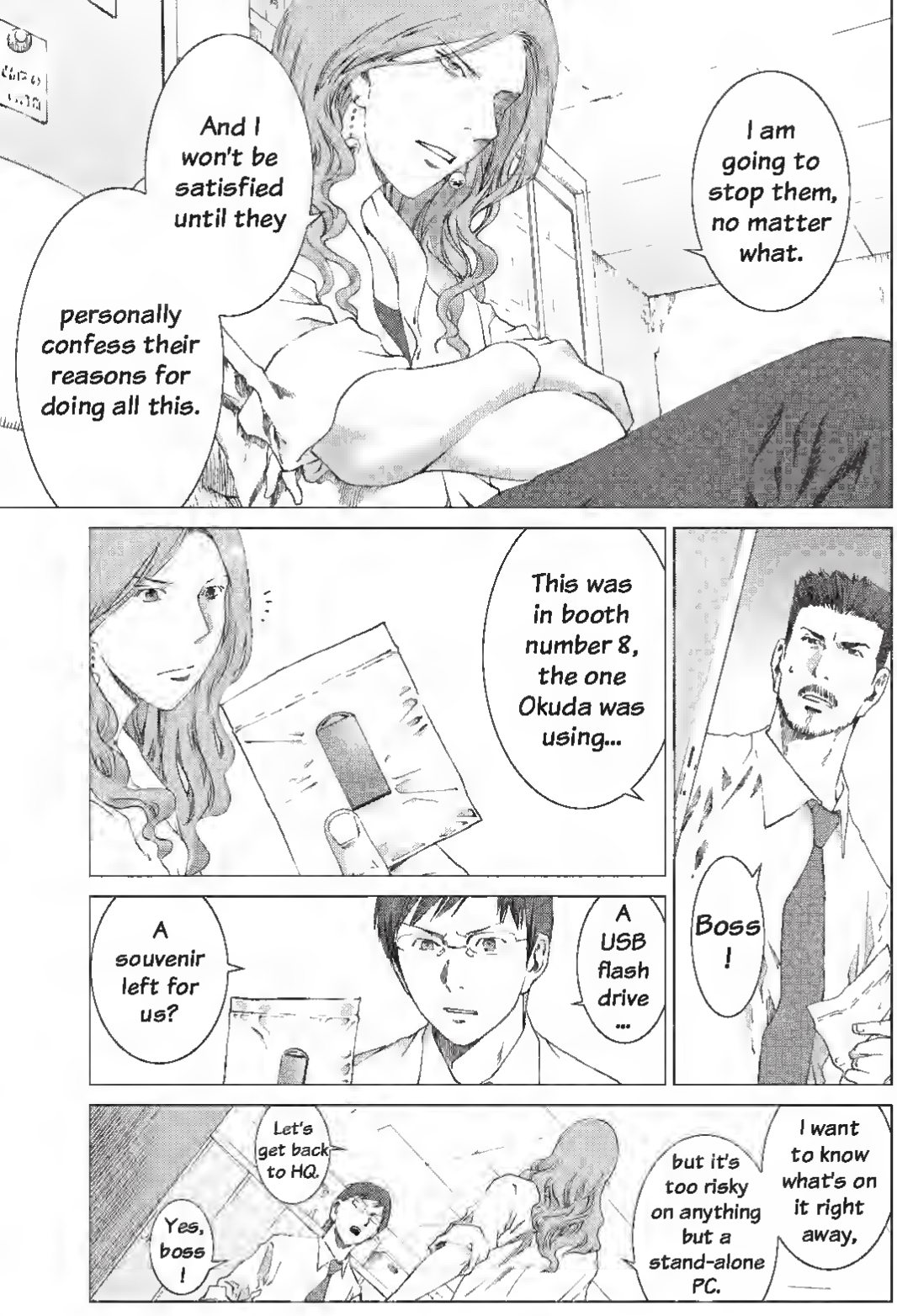

Ah!
Sorry you had to see that...
Oh, not at all.

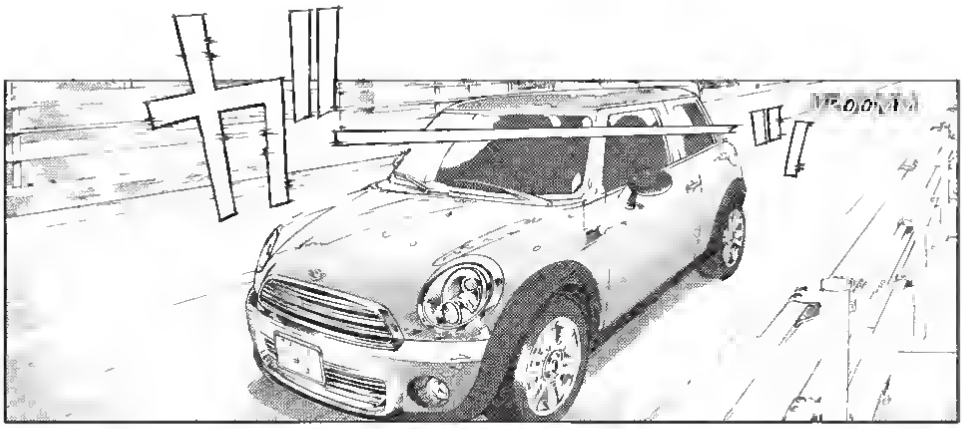
I HAVEN'T SLEPT EITHER, FOR FUCK'S SAKE!!
KASHAANG

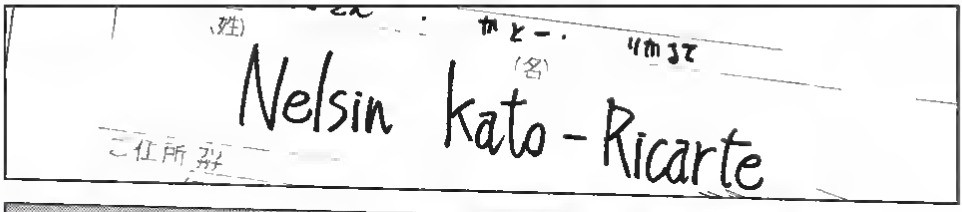
Now then, could you provide me with some info
on the idiot newbie gone AWOL?

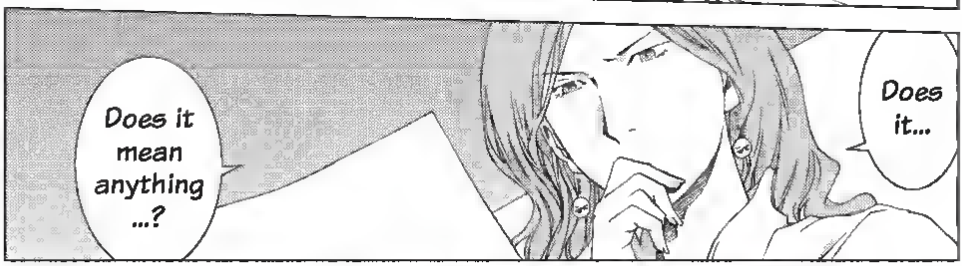

Name
Shin'ichi Terahara
Aug. 21, 1979
Age 32
wn, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture
32 years old. Born in Fukuoka.
Shin' ichi Tera- hara.

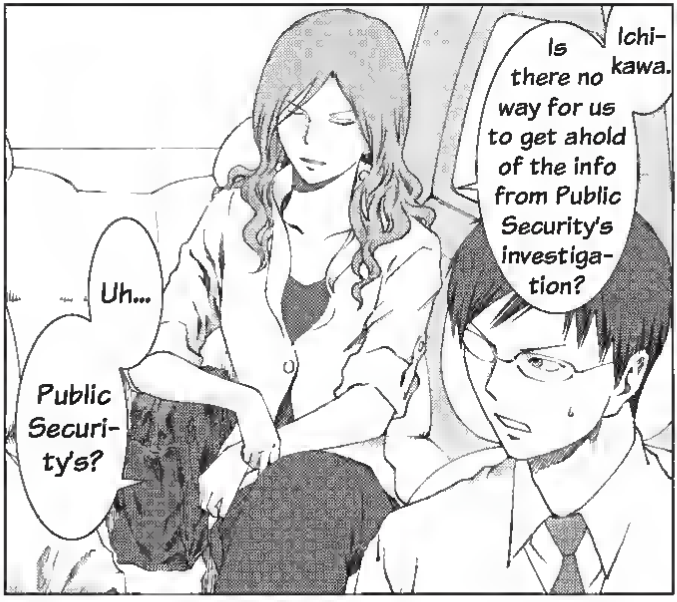

Maybe they have no need to hide their identities anymore.
It feels anti-climactic or something.
If the tip that there are four men is true,
then now we know who all of them are.
Getting one of their own into a part-time job here just for that?
Seems like a terribly inefficient way of doing things.
They bought enough time to post the video and clear out of the café without getting reported...
then maybe questions of efficiency are irrelevant.
But if the meaning of the warning video is that they're going to kill themselves,


I am going to stop them, no matter what.
And I won't be satisfied until they personally confess their reasons for doing all this.
This was in booth number 8, the one Okuda was using...
Boss !
A souvenir left for us?
A USB flash drive ...
I want to know what's on it right away,
but it's too risky on anything but a stand-alone PC.
Let's get back to HQ.
Yes, boss !



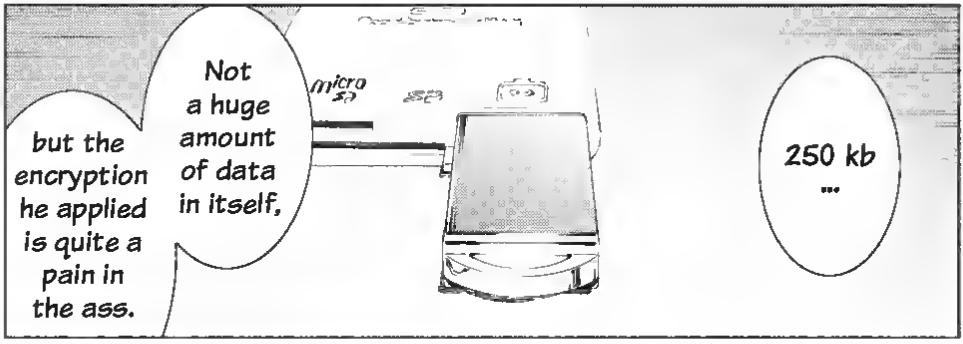

Nelsin Kato-Ricarte

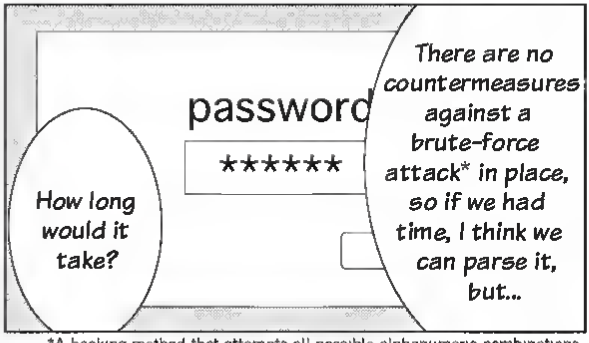

Does it...
Does it mean anything ...?


Ichikawa.
Is there no way for us to get ahold of the info from Public Security's investigation?
Uh...
Public Security's?

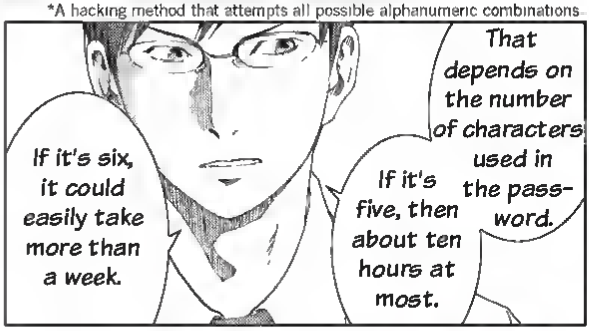
Boss
What's up?

If Public Security has info on Nelsin Kato-Ricarte, then I want to inquire after it.
No other department can compare when it comes to background checks.
Hmm.
Guess that's true...
They may be cops just like us, but the Public Security crew would never cooperate with us.
That's plain impossible.
It can't be helped.
Time to play our trump card.
June 4, 20:00
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

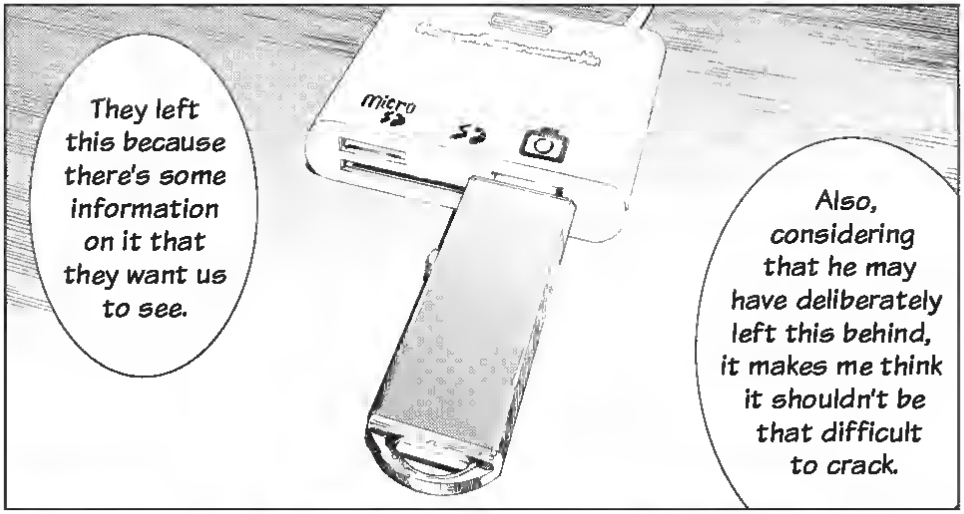


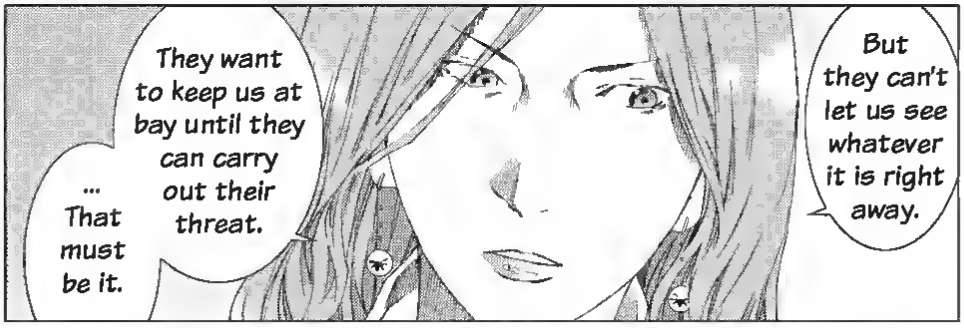


password
******
How long would it take?
There are no countermeasures against a brute-force attack* in place, so if we had time, I think we can parse it, but...

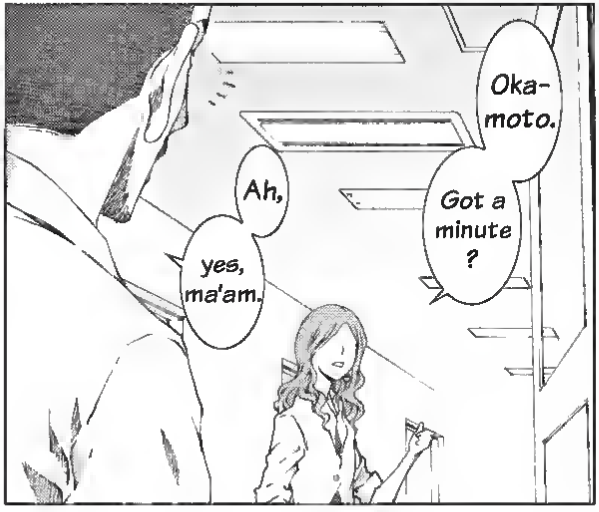
*A hacking method that attempts all possible alphanumeric combinations


If it's six, it could easily take more than a week.
That depends on the number of characters used in the password.
If it's five, then about ten hours at most.

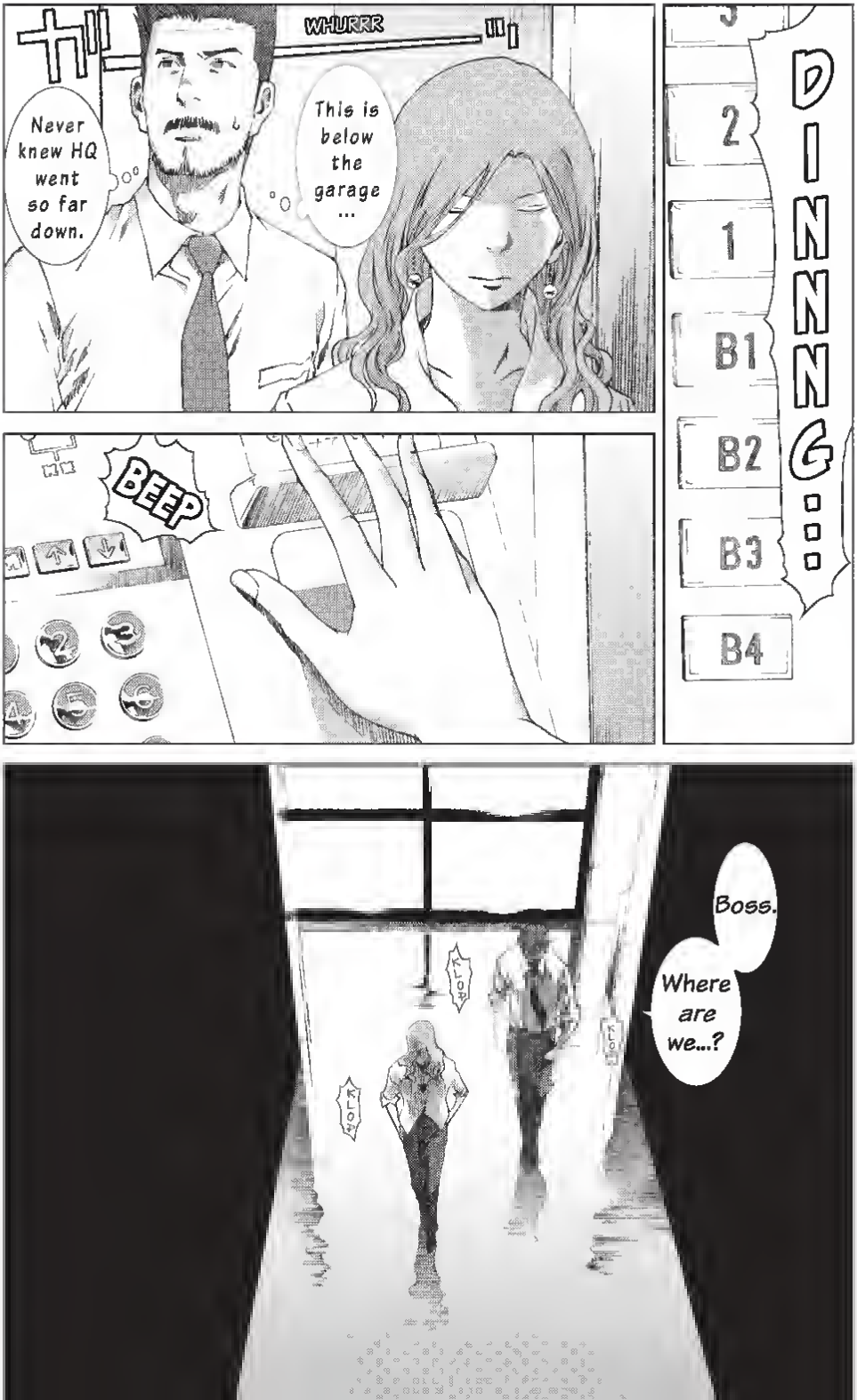
Got it.
If it's six we'll never make it in time anyways, so let's bet on the one that at least gives us a chance.
You want to specify five?
I see. Then try to parse it based on the assumption it's five.

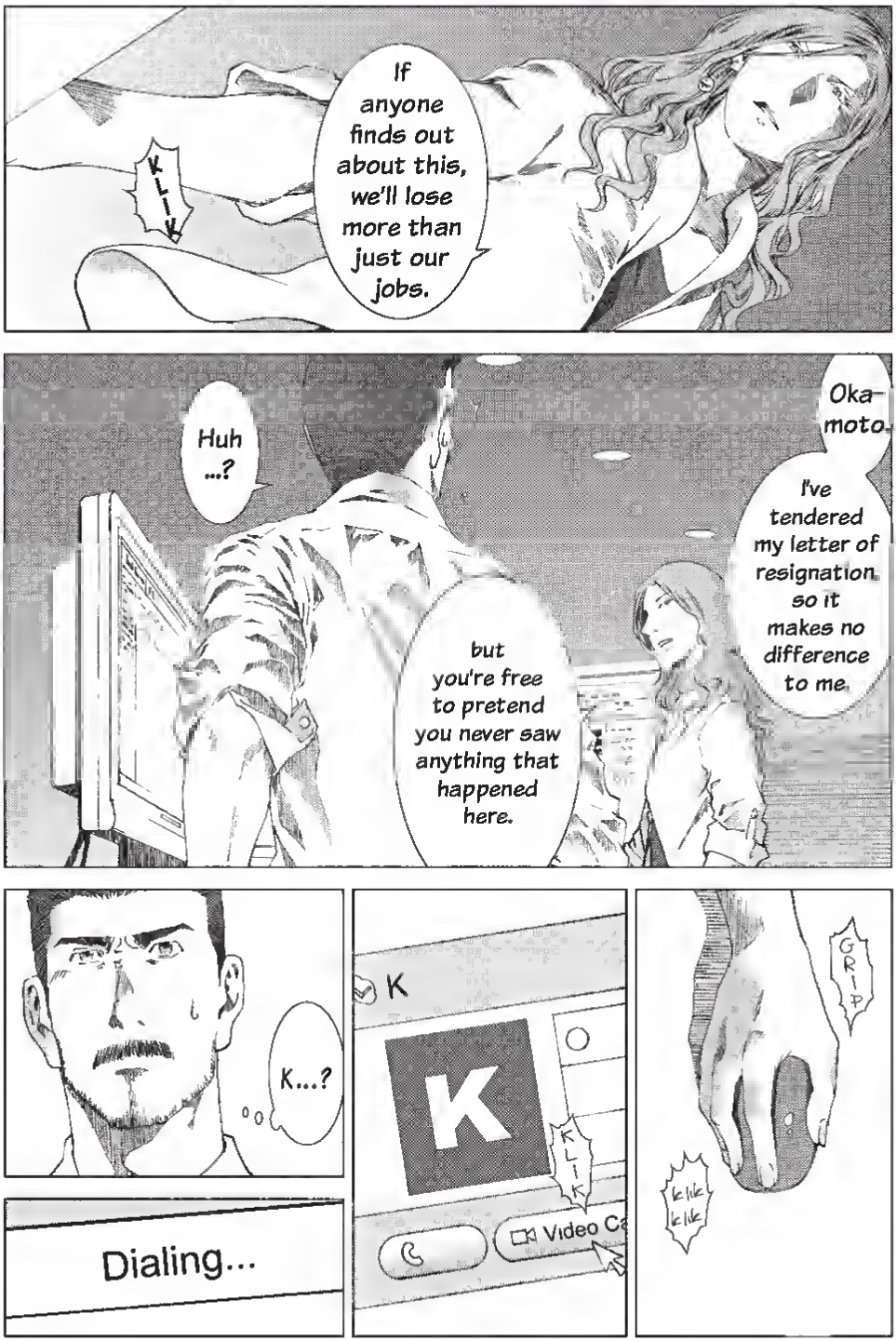

They left this because there's some information on it that they want us to see.
micro SD
Also, considering that he may have deliberately left this behind, it makes me think it shouldn't be that difficult to crack.


They want to keep us at bay until they can carry out their threat.
... That must be it.
But they can't let us see whatever it is right away.

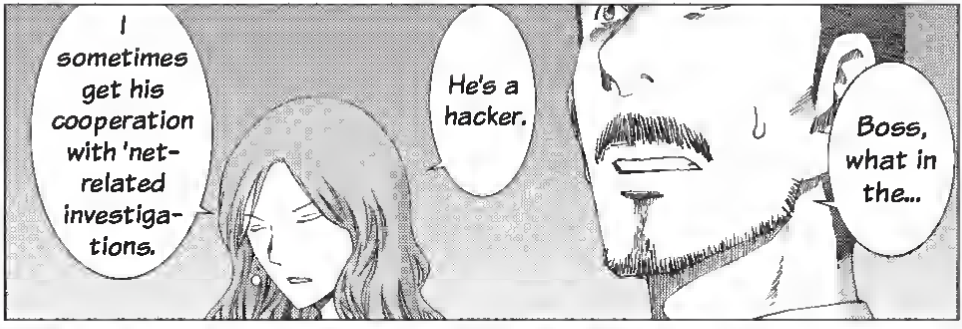

Oka-moto.
Got a minute ?
Ah, yes, ma'am.

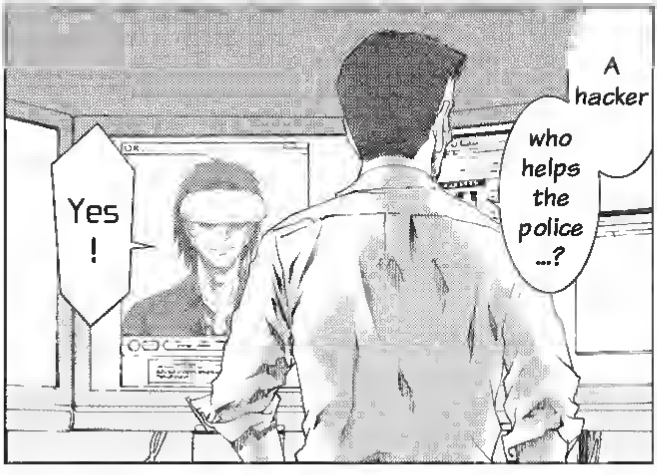
Now then,
let's see about Public Security's info...


WHURRR
Never knew HQ went so far down.
This is below the garage ...
DINNNG...
2
1
B1
B2
B3
B4
BEEP
Boss.
Where are we...?
KLOK
KLOK
KLOK


KLIK
If anyone finds out about this, we'll lose more than just our jobs.
Huh ...?
but you're free to pretend you never saw anything that happened here.
Oka-moto.
I've tendered my letter of resignation, so it makes no difference to me.
K...?
Dialing...
K
KLIK
Video Ca
GRIP
klik klik

You want to steal info from a Public Security investigation?
Ha ha ha!
That's a pretty crazy request, Ms. Yoshino!

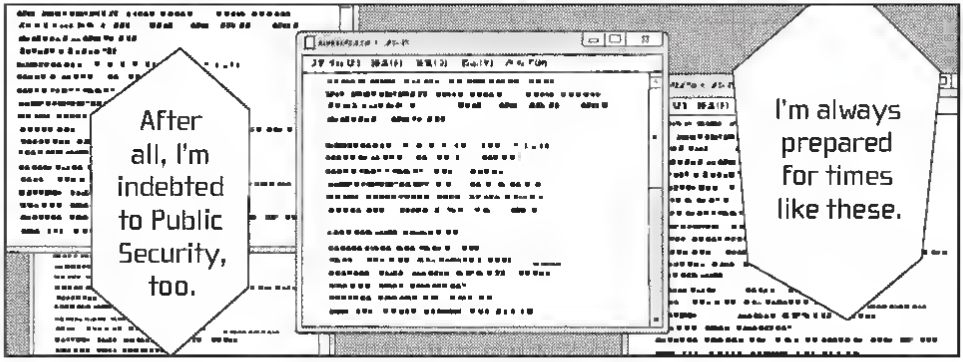

Boss, what in the...
He's a hacker.
I sometimes get his cooperation with 'net-related investigations.

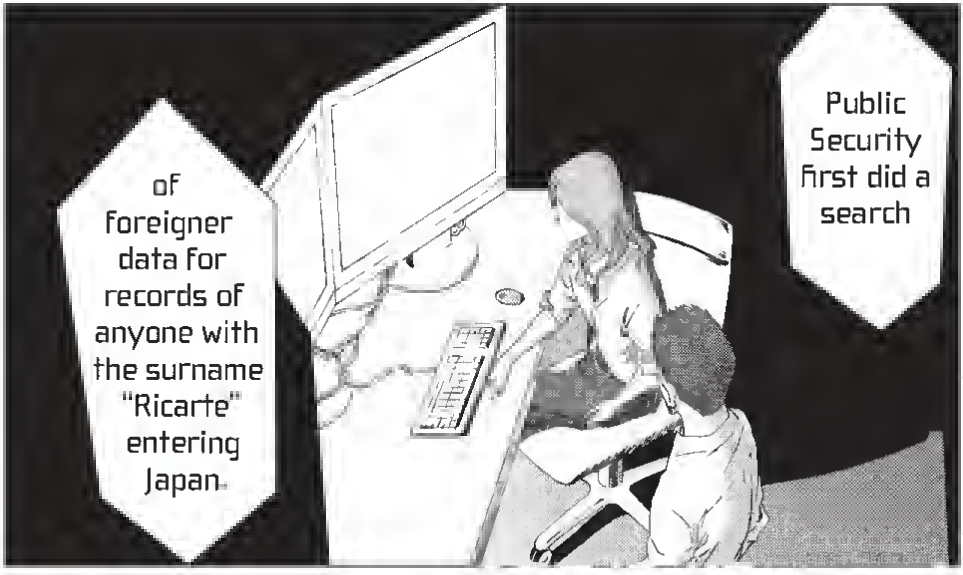

A hacker who helps the police ...?
Yes !

This is the first time I've made an illegal request, however.

I can hear you, you know.
But his skills are solid.
Although some of his conduct makes it a bit hard to call him one of the good guys.
Yes ...
Can we trust this person ?
Ab-solutely pos-sible.
No, but... an outsider getting a peek at Public Security's intel is...
I'll disguise one of the templates they use for their investigation reports
and remotely nab server admin rights via the approval chain.
To get past Public Security's security,
I'll first target the word processing software they use.

Huh ?
but to be honest, I've already got the info.
Well, that's the trick I'd use,


After all, I'm indebted to Public Security, too.
I'm always prepared for times like these.


of foreigner data for records of anyone with the surname "Ricarte" entering Japan.
Public Security first did a search

Public Security investigators then combed through each and every result.

They went back through 30 years of records and got 135 hits.

Of these, they took particular notice of a Philippine woman by the name of Cristina Ricarte, who entered the country in April, 1985.

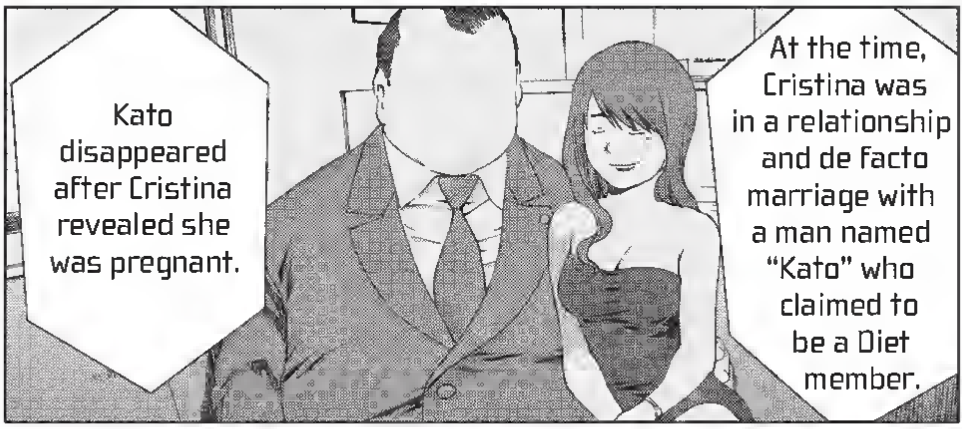
Name
Cristina Rica
Nationality
Republic of t
Registered Domicile
Manila
Sex
F
Signature of bearer

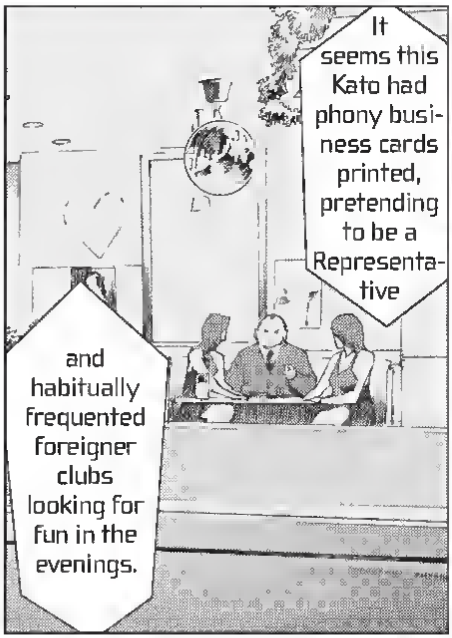
She spent the next two years working at a club that hired foreigners in Tokyo, but she got pregnant, quit her job and returned to the Philippines.

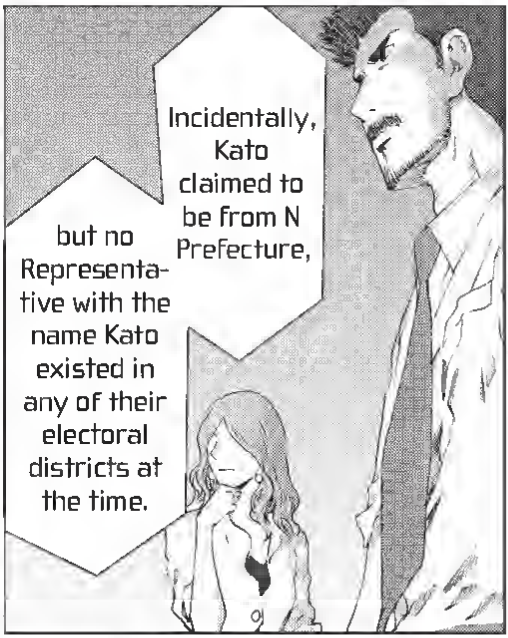
This was in 1987.

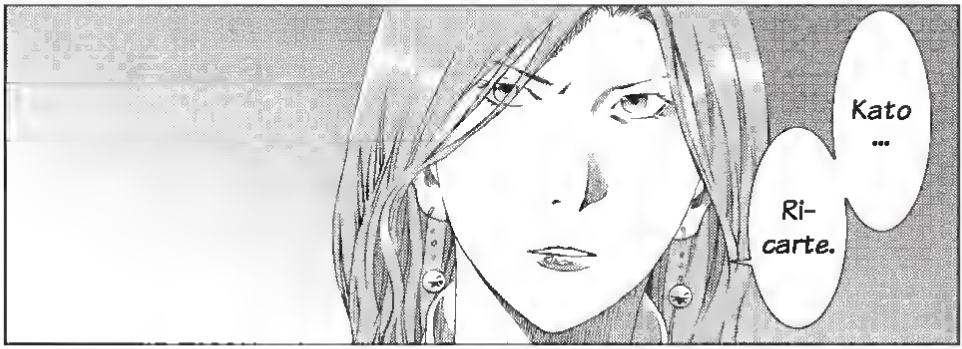
沖縄そば

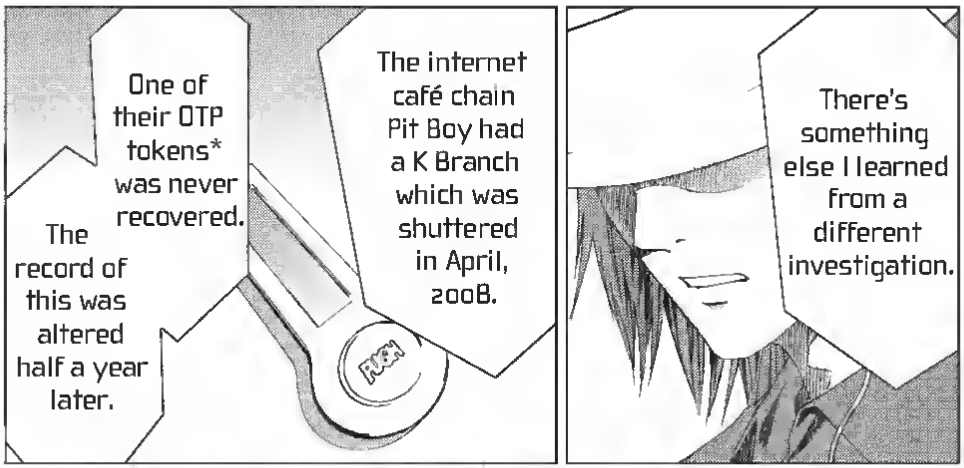
Via a local broker's mediation, Cristina obtained a visa to work as a dancer and was able to enter Japan.


Kato disappeared after Cristina revealed she was pregnant.
At the time, Cristina was in a relationship and de facto marriage with a man named "Kato" who claimed to be a Diet member.

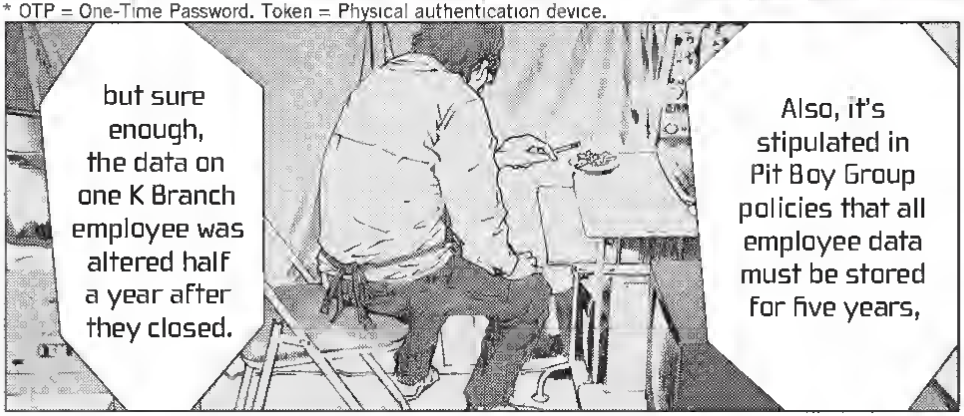

It seems this Kato had phony business cards printed, pretending to be a Representative
and habitually frequented foreigner clubs looking for fun in the evenings.

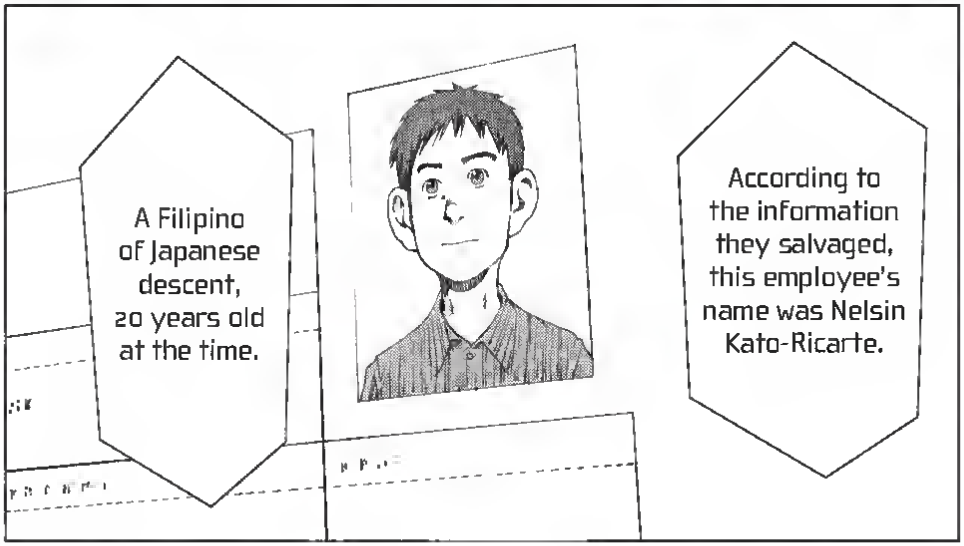

Incidentally, Kato claimed to be from N Prefecture,
but no Representative with the name Kato existed in any of their electoral districts at the time.

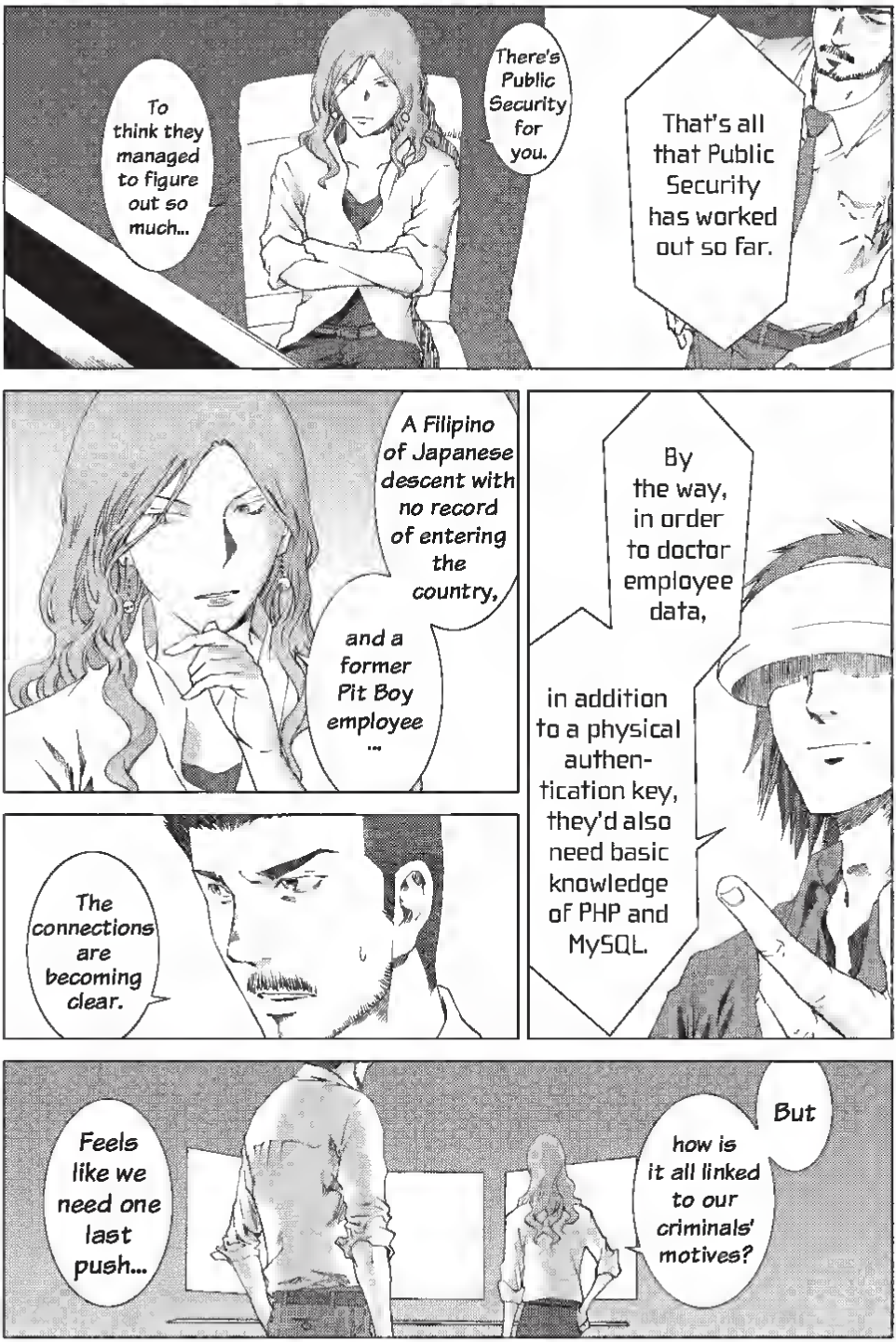

Kato ...
Ri-carte.

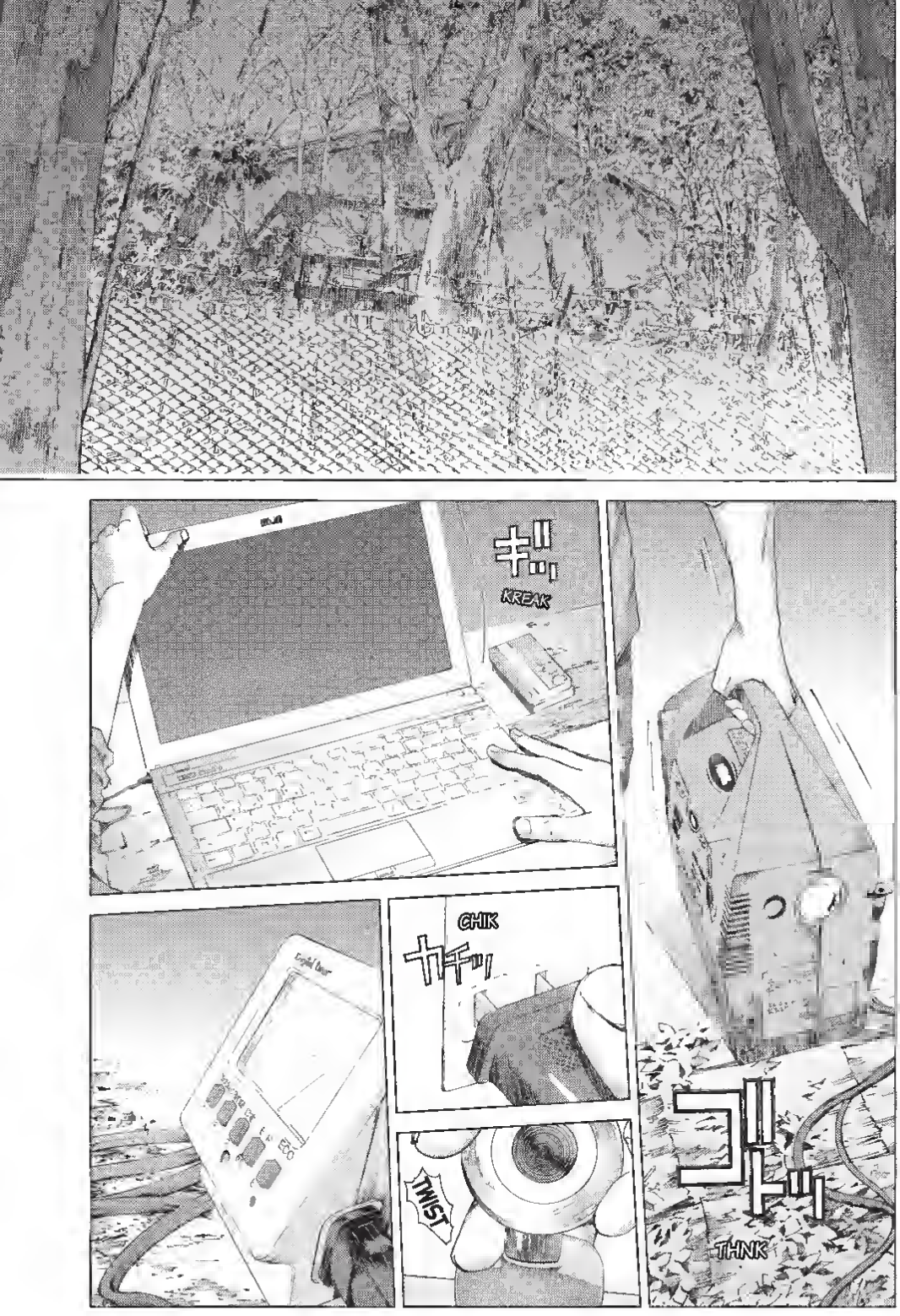

The internet café chain Pit Boy had a K Branch which was shuttered in April, 2008.
One of their OTP tokens* was never recovered.
The record of this was altered half a year later.
There's something else I learned from a different investigation.

* OTP = One-Time Password. Token = Physical authentication device.


but sure enough, the data on one K Branch employee was altered half a year after they closed.
Also, it's stipulated in Pit Boy Group policies that all employee data must be stored for five years,


A Filipino of Japanese descent, 20 years old at the time.
According to the information they salvaged, this employee's name was Nelsin Kato-Ricarte.

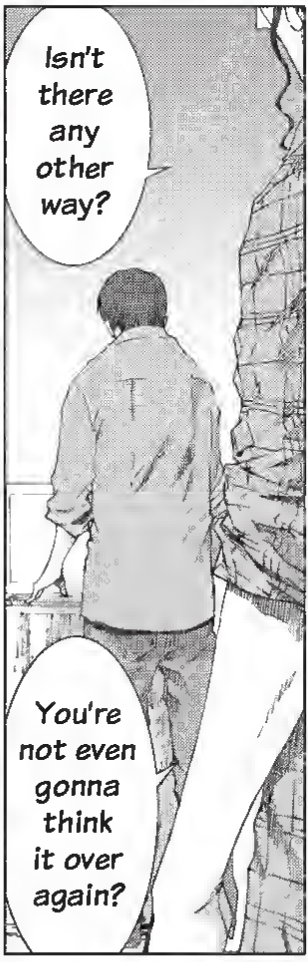

To think they managed to figure out so much...
There's Public Security for you.
That's all that Public Security has worked out so far.
A Filipino of Japanese descent with no record of entering the country,
and a former Pit Boy employee ...
By the way, in order to doctor employee data,
in addition to a physical authentication key, they'd also need basic knowledge of PHP and MySQL.
The connections are becoming clear.
Feels like we need one last push...
But how is it all linked to our criminals' motives?


キッ
KREAK
CHIK
カチッ
TWIST
ゴゴッ
THNK

ON CARRYING OUT OUR FINAL THREAT.
LET'S GET STARTED
NO SMOKING

...
Gates.
We really gonna do this?

We decided on this three years ago.
I don't feel like changing any-thing.


Isn't there any other way?
You're not even gonna think it over again?

I ain't gonna stop you this late in the game,
but don't you have any last words you wanna say?

No need for that, either.
Even if we don't archive our voices and entrust them to someone, they'll still remain.
and kept working at winning all those netizens to our side.
That's why we used the 'net
Kansai.
Let's have it.
...

SLFF
PTCH
...
Okay.

KLATTER

File
020

This one's not hard enough.
Too short.
... Too thin.
June 5, 24:10
AN ABANDONED FACILITY
A stick?
You mean like a twig?
Does anyone
have a short stick about four inches long?
Nah,
anything will do if it's hard enough.
A ballpoint pen, or something.
I've got a pen.
Will this work?
Yeah
that'll do.

What's up, Gates?
Sprain your finger or something?
Yeah. A bit.
PULL
PSSHT
Clear
Asahi
Clear
Asahi
First off I'll give you these.
Two sleeping pills and a low-malt beer.
Nobita.
Yeah

TWITCH
Nobita.
There's something that just won't stop bothering me.
Huh?
...?
Hiding ... something?
You're
hiding something from us, aren't you.
Well...
Under the circum-stances, I'll be blunt.

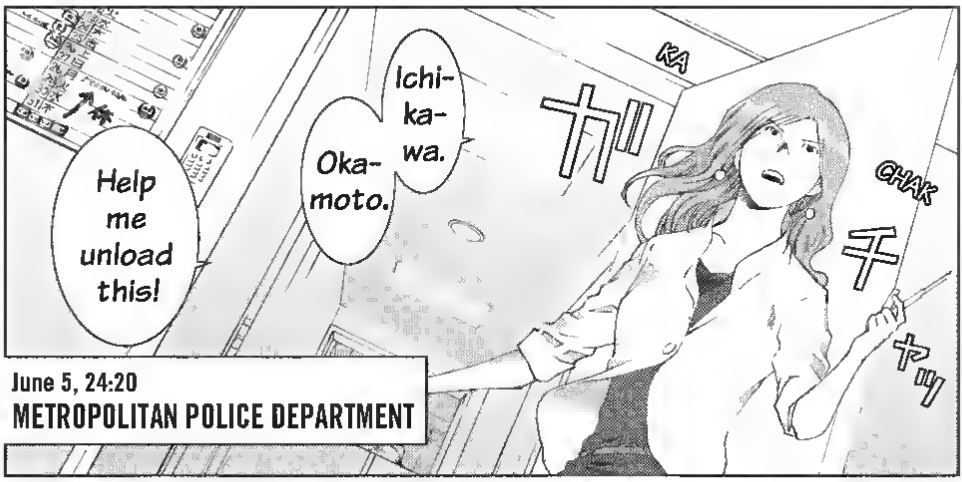
RATTED US OUT TO THE POLICE, DIDN'T YOU.
YOU
...!

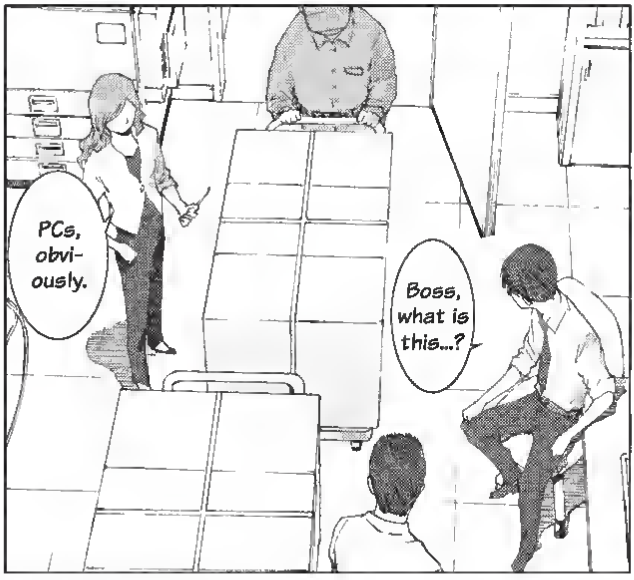
JITR
JITR
But you gave the cops enough for them to work out lots of particulars about us.
... Am I wrong ?
Urr ...
Only you didn't tell them every-thing.
If you had, they would've thrown us in jail long before now.

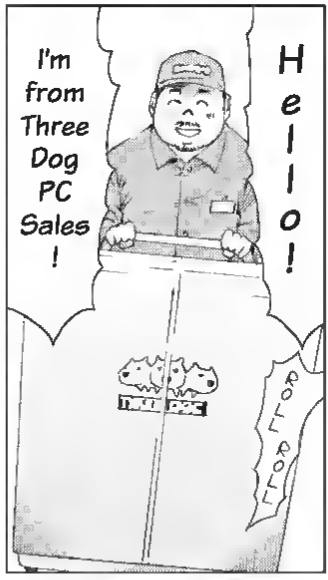
No-bita.
You really do that?
Uu ... mm ...
PLITCH
PLITCH
I... I tried... c...
calling... but...
"Tried."
Meaning, you didn't?
Uh... well.. mm...
Give me a straight answer!

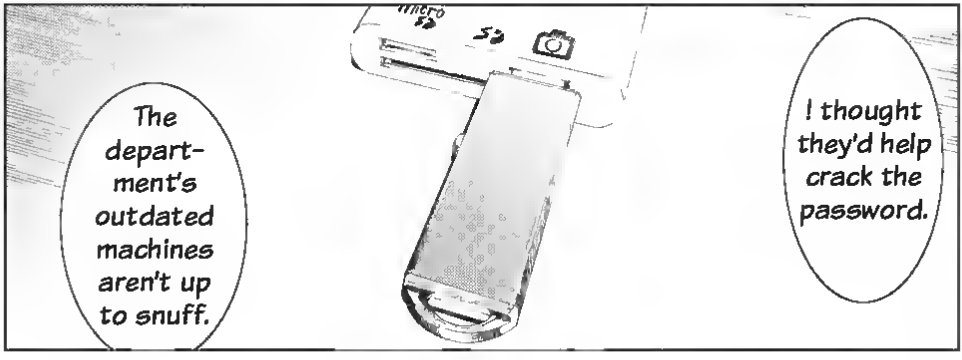
No, I...
I got scared ...
...and hung up in the middle ...
So you did call them.
You hung up in the middle.
No- bita.
You ...
I'm...
I'm so sorry.
I... I was afraid.
Tsk ...
Now what, Gates ?

ゴトッ
KLNK
60 seconds.
Nobita.
You'll need to be penalized.
After taking the drugs, you won't wake up.
This is where I did it on myself to test it.
While you're sleeping you'll get the soldering iron
for 60 seconds, using this programmable timer.
... Penalized ?
But it'll leave a powerful burn scar that won't easily vanish.
It'll be something that'll save you in the end.
Save me ...?
...?

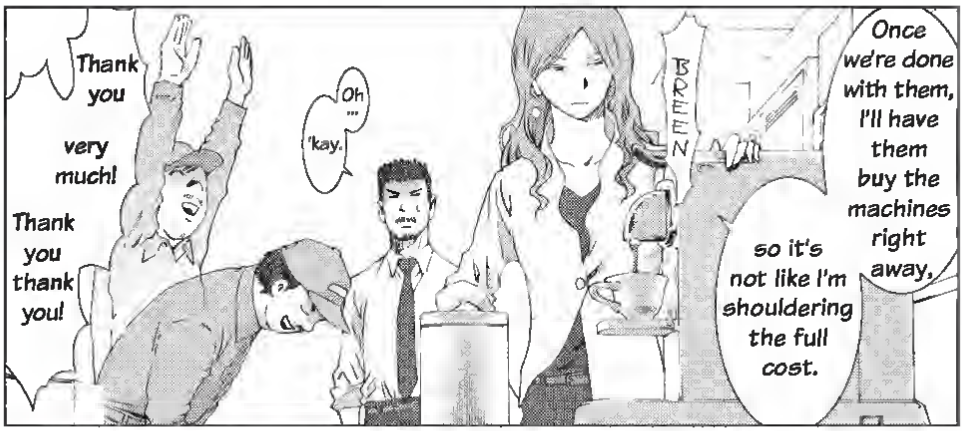

Help me unload this!
Oka-moto.
Ichi-ka-wa.
KA
ガ
CHAK
チ
ヤッ
June 5, 24:20
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT


PCs, obvi-ously.
Boss, what is this...?

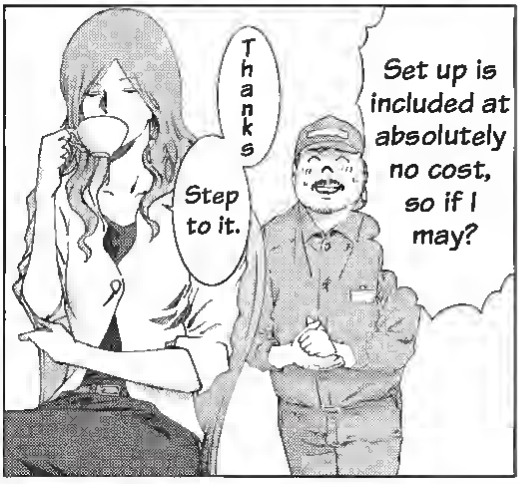

H e l l o !
I'm from Three Dog PC Sales !
ROLL ROLL

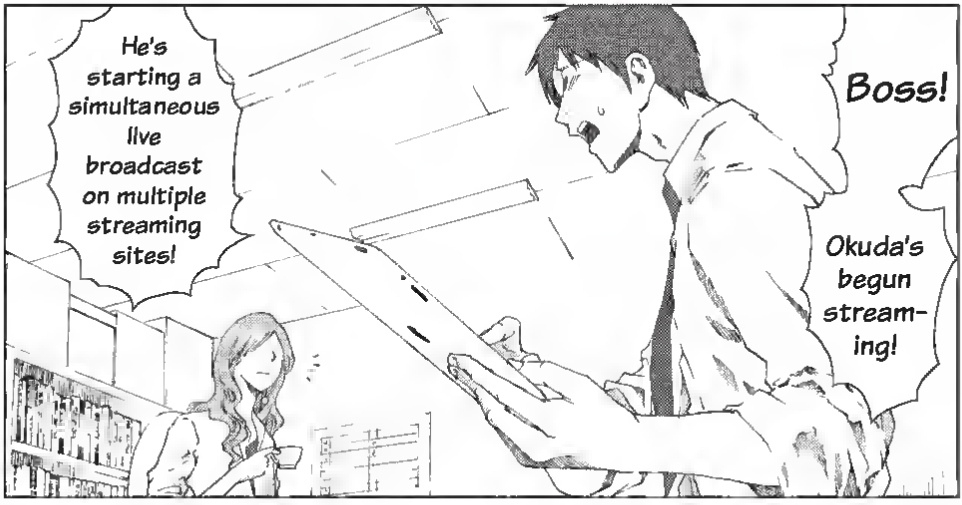

The depart-ment's outdated machines aren't up to snuff.
micro SD
! thought they'd help crack the password.

Those machines are 500,000 yen each.
And there are six...
We'll daisy chain them with LAN cables
and try to crack it using distributed pro-cessing.
Uhm. Boss.
If I can ask a silly question,
will these come out of the expense budget?
Ex-pense budget ?
What ...
BUT I PAID FOR THEM MYSELF.

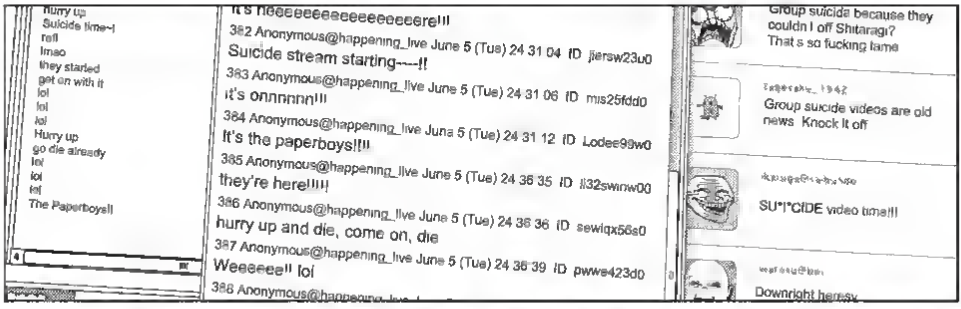

Thank you very much!
Thank you thank you!
Oh...
'kay.
SCREEN
Once we're done with them, I'll have them buy the machines right away,
so it's not like I'm shouldering the full cost.

PING
Ah.

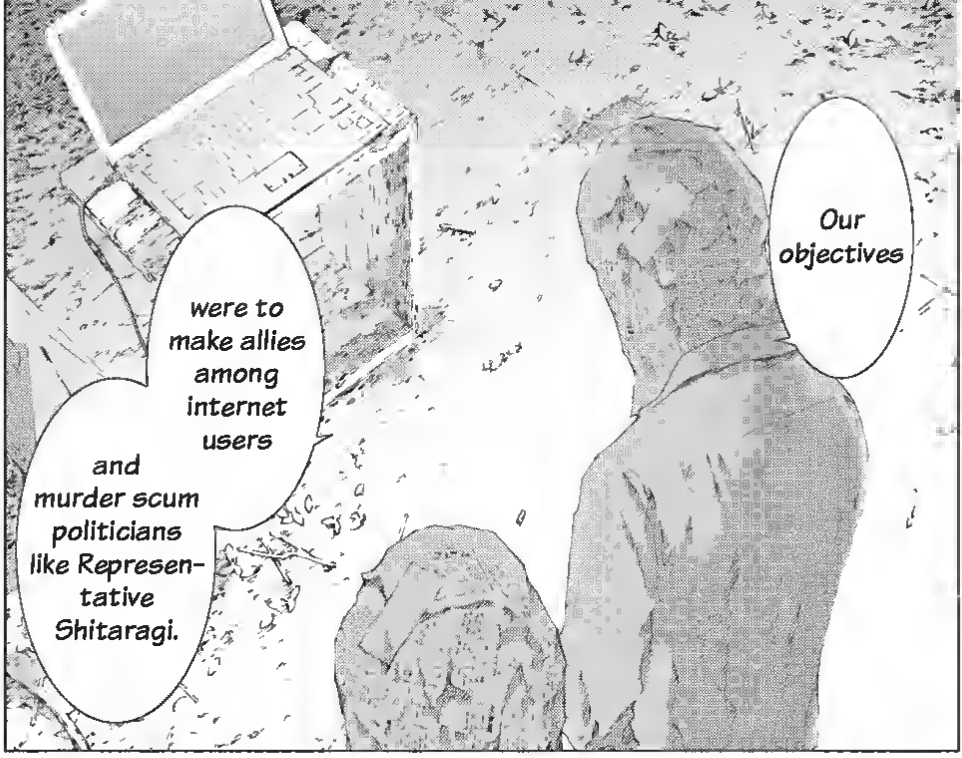

Thanks
Step to it.
Set up is included at absolutely no cost, so if I may?

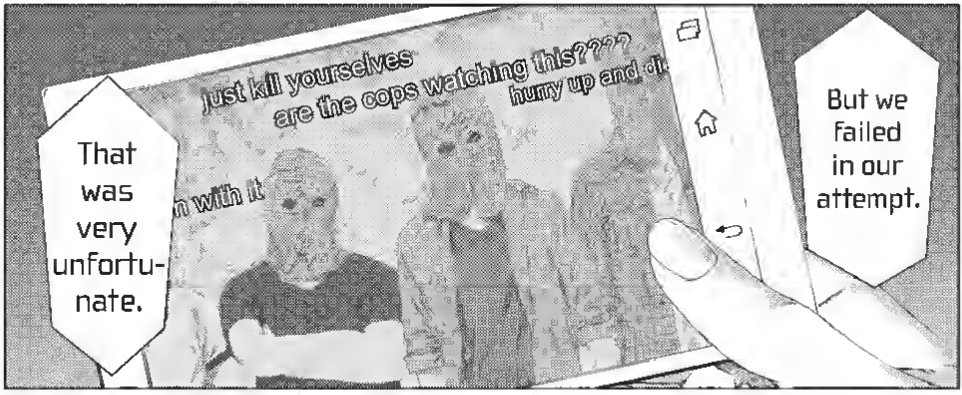

He's starting a simultaneous live broadcast on multiple streaming sites!
Boss!
Okuda's begun streaming!

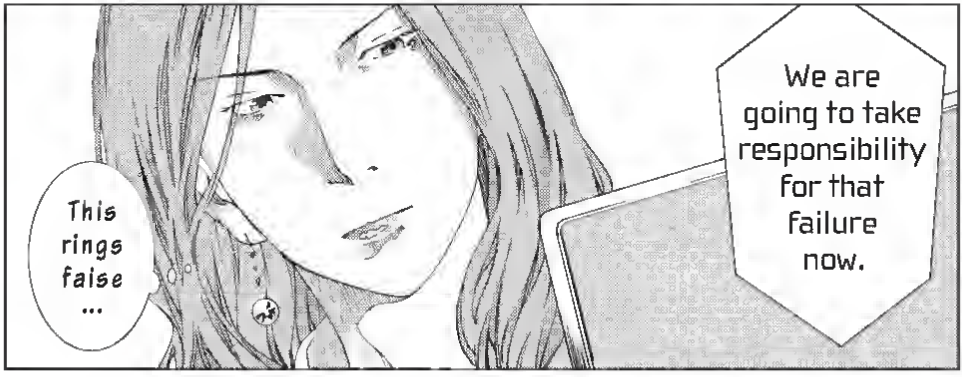
Now we begin our final trans-mission.

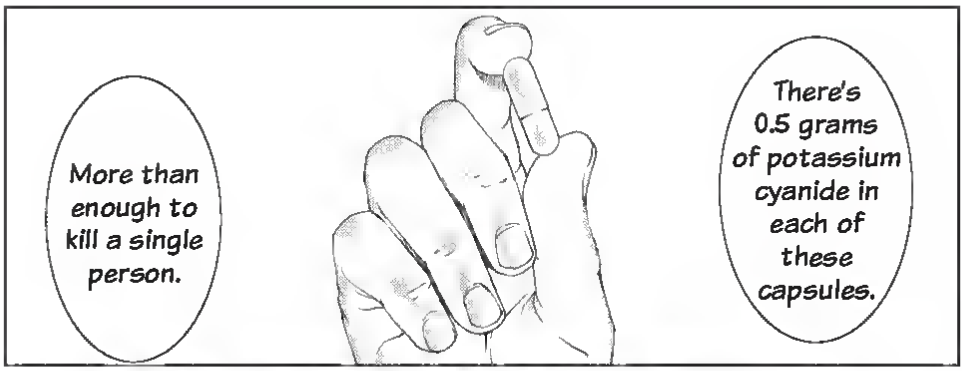

hurry up
Suicide time~!
rell
lmao
they started
get on with it
lol
lol
lol
Hurry up
go die already
lol
lol
lol
The Paperboys!!
It's neeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeere!!!
382 Anonymous@happening_live June 5 (Tue) 24:31:04 ID: jlersw23u0
Suicide stream starting----!!
383 Anonymous@happening_live June 5 (Tue) 24:31:06 ID: mis25fdd0
it's onnnnnn!!!
384 Anonymous@happening_live June 5 (Tue) 24:31:12 ID: Lodee99w0
It's the paperboys!!!!
385 Anonymous@happening_live June 5 (Tue) 24:36:35 ID: ll32swnw00
they're here!!!!!
386 Anonymous@happening_live June 5 (Tue) 24:36:36 ID: sewiqx56s0
hurry up and die, come on, die
387 Anonymous@happening_live June 5 (Tue) 24:36:39 ID: pwws423d0
Weeeeee!! lol
388 Anonymous@happening_live
Group suicide because they couldn't off Shitaragi? That's so fucking lame
Group suicide videos are old news Knock it off
SU*I*CIDE video time!!!
Downright heresy

but we're about to bring you a suicide broadcast.
I think you probably already guessed this,


Our objectives
were to make allies among internet users
and murder scum politicians like Representative Shitaragi.

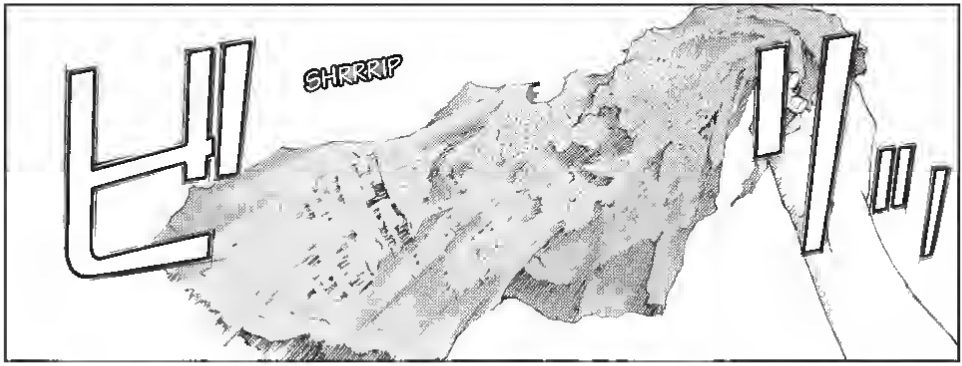

Just kill yourselves
are the cops watching this????
hurry up and di
n with it
But we failed in our attempt.
That was very unfortunate.


We are going to take responsibility for that failure now.
This rings faise ...


More than enough to kill a single person.
There's 0.5 grams of potassium cyanide in each of these capsules.

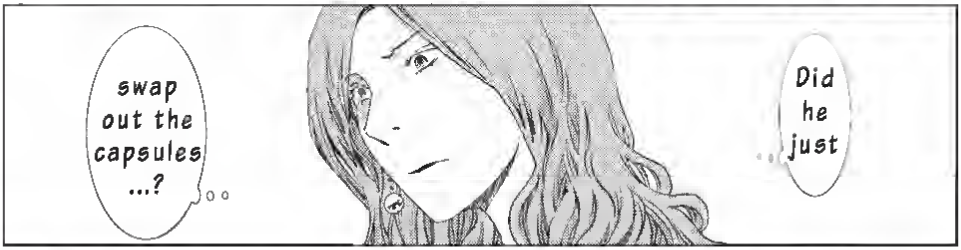
...
There's no reason for us to wear these masks any more.

The pills will dissolve in our stomachs in about 30 minutes.
We will surely die in our sleep.

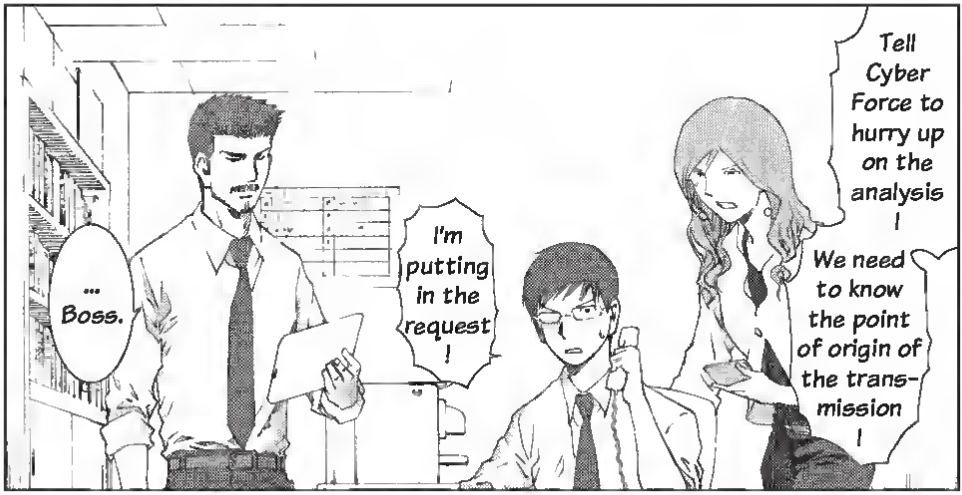

SHRRRIP

FACES!!
WHOAAAAAAAA!!
THEY DID IT!!!!!!!!!!
WOOOOOO!!
MASKS OFF!!!!!!!!!!
OOOOOOOOOOOOHH
LOLOLOLOLO
HE SHOWED THEIR FACES!!
THEY DID IT!!!!!!!!!!

GLP
GLP


swap out the capsules ...?
Did he just ...

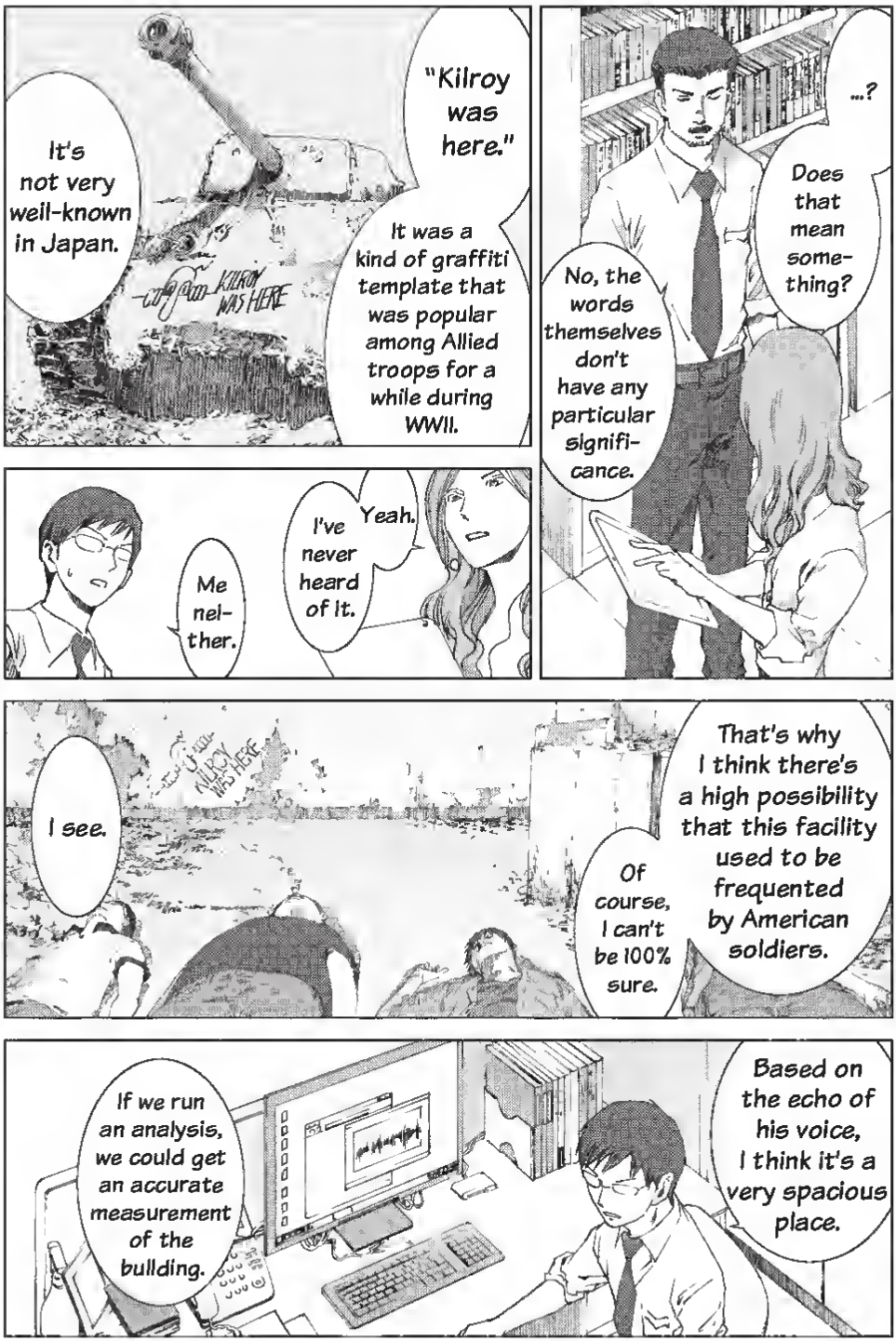
KILROY WAS HERE


Tell Cyber Force to hurry up on the analysis !
We need to know the point of origin of the trans-mission !
I'm putting in the request !
... Boss.

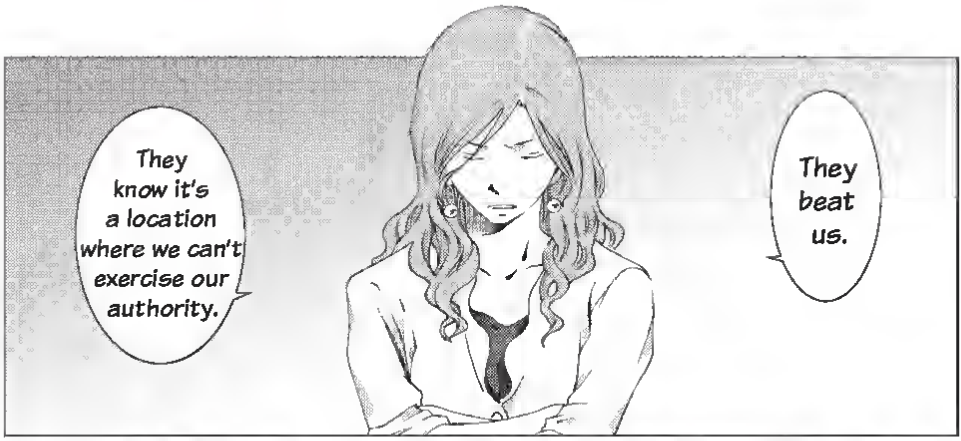
I think this place could be
an abandoned U.S. military facility.

This Here. graffiti on the wall.
KILROY WAS HERE
"Kilroy was here."

Oka-moto ?
How can you tell?


"Kilroy was here."
It was a kind of graffiti template that was popular among Allied troops for a while during WWII.
It's not very well-known in Japan.
...?
Does that mean something?
No, the words themselves don't have any particular significance.
Yeah.
I've never heard of it.
Me neither.
That's why I think there's a high possibility that this facility used to be frequented by American soldiers.
Of course, I can't be 100% sure.
I see.
Based on the echo of his voice, I think it's a very spacious place.
If we run an analysis, we could get an accurate measurement of the building.

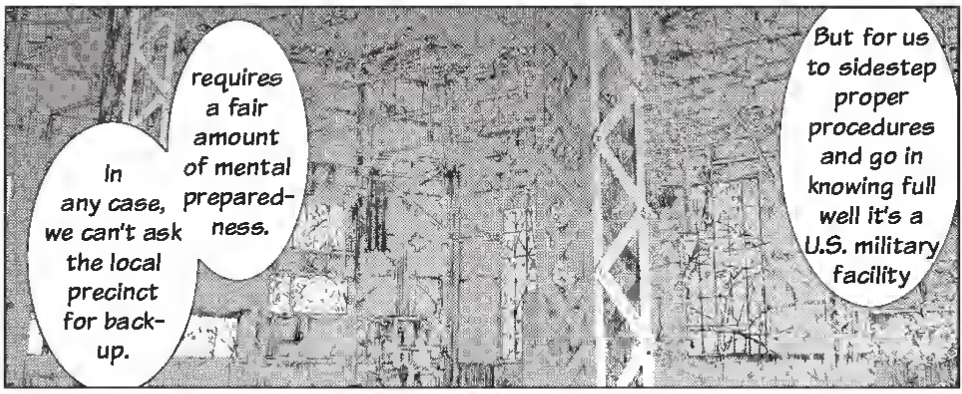
An abandoned U.S. military facility within a few hours' radius of the manga café in Y City, Kanagawa Prefecture.
Those conditions should really narrow it down.
Then I'll notify the precincts in the area...
Okamoto, there's no point.
... Huh?
Japanese police aren't allowed to enter U.S. military facilities.
Ah ...

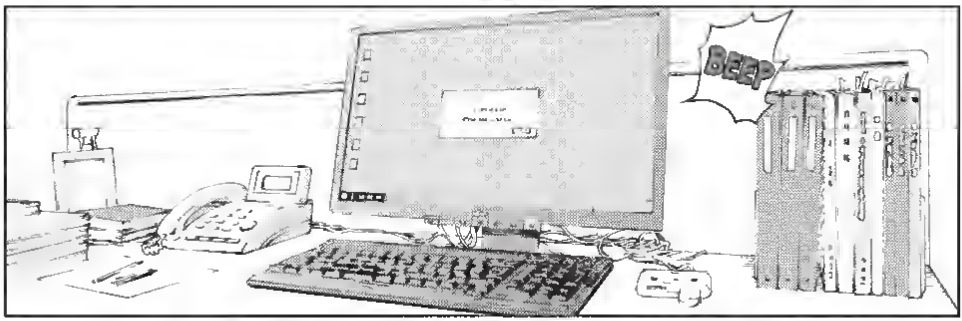

They know it's a location where we can't exercise our authority.
They beat us.

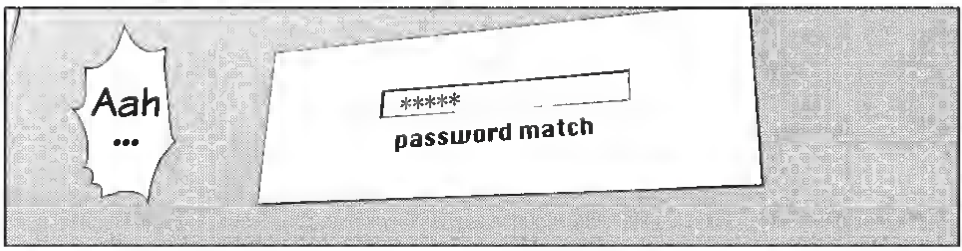
That's about the size of it.
So all we can do is sit on the sidelines and look on in envy.

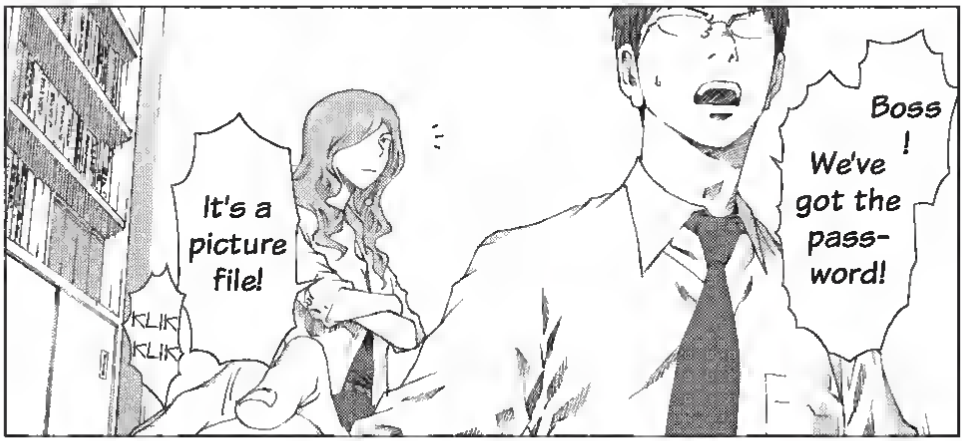
If it's abandoned, the U.S. military may have already relinquished the land,
and the fact that these four managed to get in means it's not closely monitored.

Well, but ...
It's not impossible for us to physically enter the place.

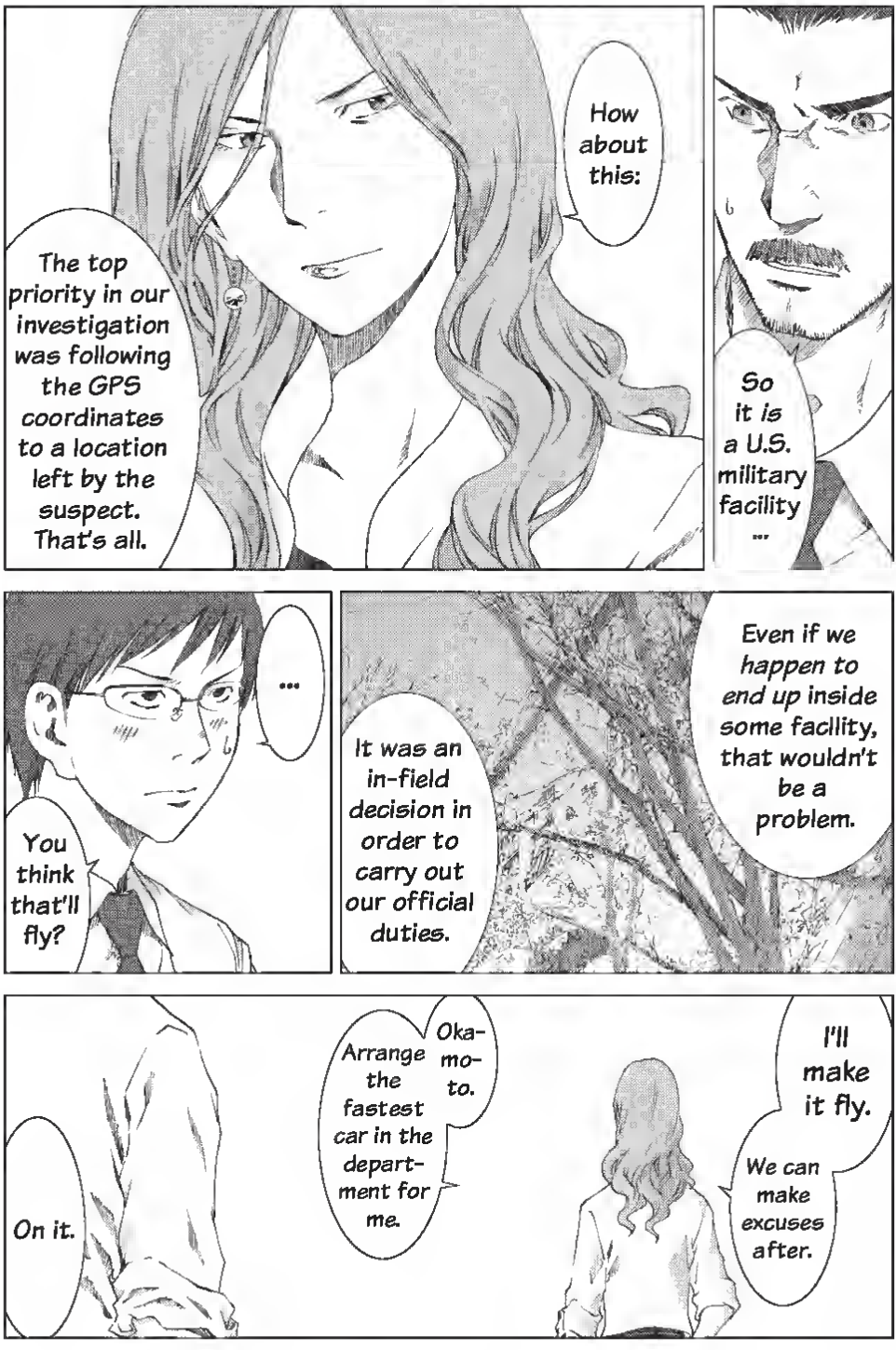

But for us to sidestep proper procedures and go in knowing full well it's a U.S. military facility
requires a fair amount of mental preparedness.
In any case, we can't ask the local precinct for back-up.

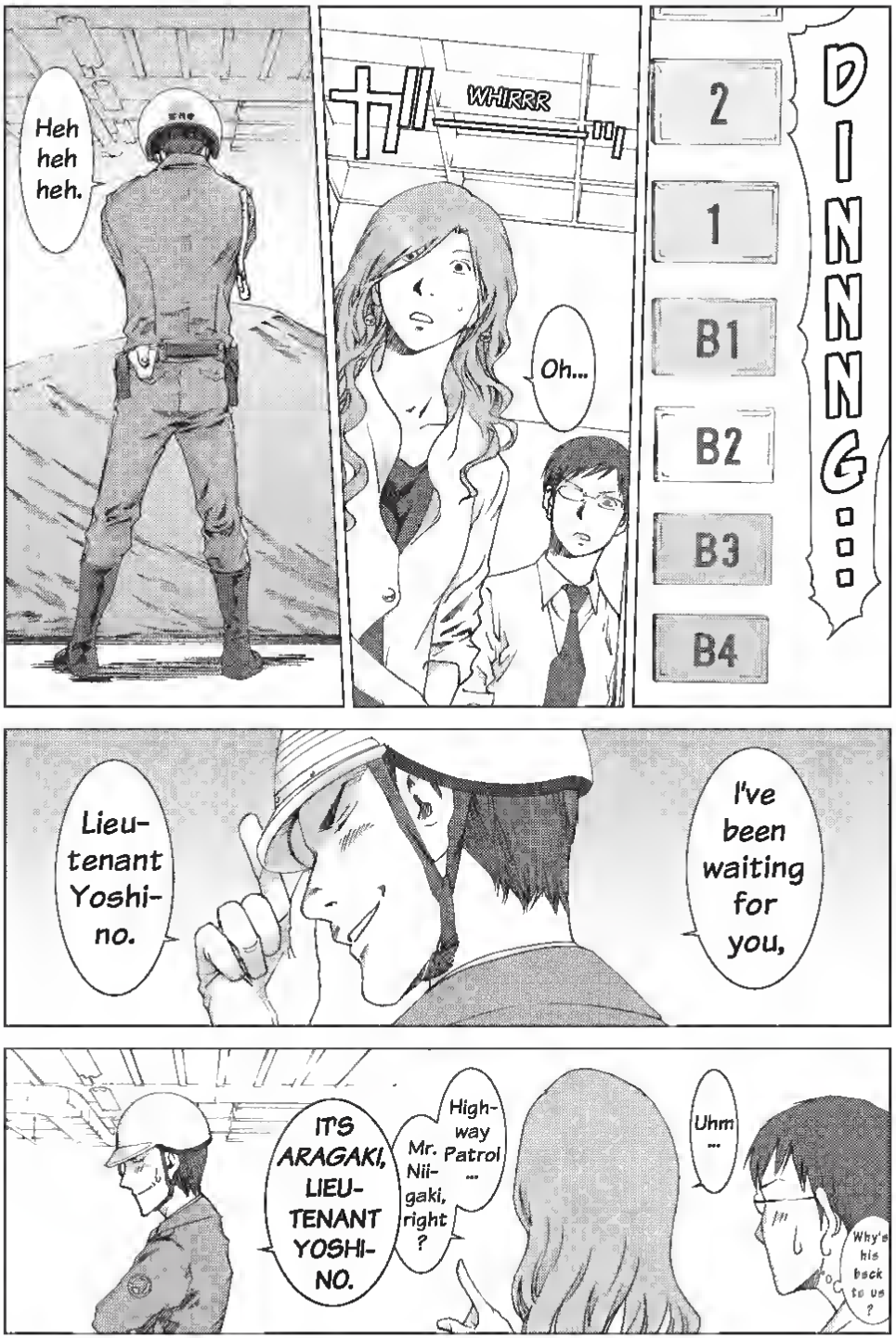

BEEP

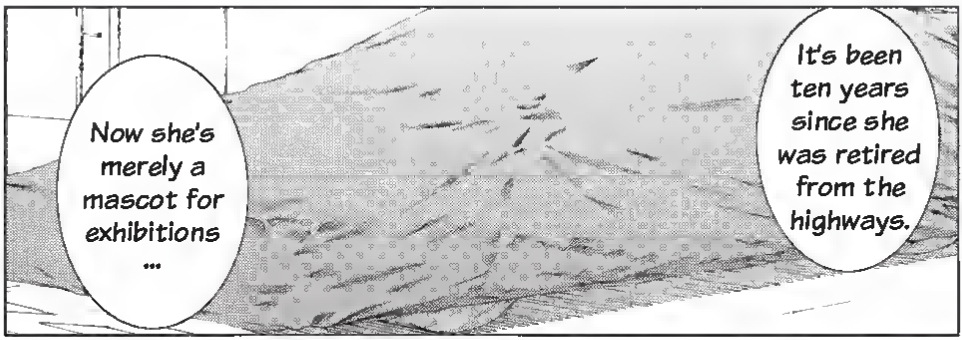

Aah ...
*****
password match

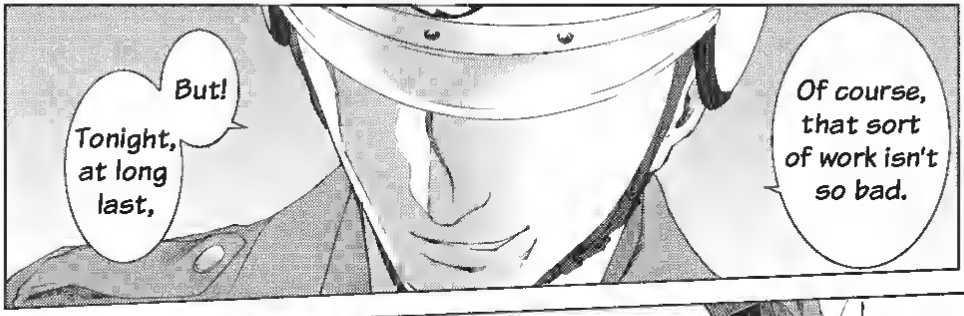

Boss ! We've got the pass-word!
It's a picture file!
KLIK KLIK

EXIF?
Does it say...
The camera was a cell phone of domestic make.
It was taken seven hours ago at 17:40...
It's even got GPS info on where it was taken.
Maybe he's telling us to look at the EXIF data?
Open it in the viewer.
EXIF: A standard for embedding information in an image file such as the camera model, date taken, etc
35.48074,
That's... right near the U.S. military camp in Kanagawa.
Based on the map data, is it outside the grounds?
...We can't tell from this.


How about this:
The top priority in our investigation was following the GPS coordinates to a location left by the suspect. That's all.
So it is a U.S. military facility ...
Even if we happen to end up inside some facility, that wouldn't be a problem.
It was an in-field decision in order to carry out our official duties.
...
You think that'll fly?
I'll make it fly.
We can make excuses after.
Okamoto.
Arrange the fastest car in the department for me.
On it.


Heh heh heh.
WHIRRR
Oh...
DINNNG...
2
1
B1
B2
B3
B4
Lieu-tenant Yoshi-no.
I've been waiting for you,
IT'S ARAGAKI, LIEU-TENANT YOSHI-NO.
Mr. Nii-gaki, right?
High-way Patrol ...
Uhm ...
Why's his back to us?


It's been ten years since she was retired from the highways.
Now she's merely a mascot for exhibitions ...

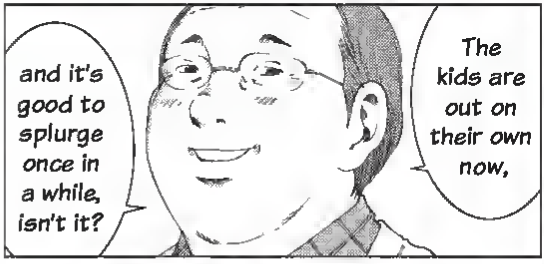

Of course, that sort of work isn't so bad.
But! Tonight, at long last,

FWAPP
the time has come for her to show her stuff once again!

File
021

PROPHECY

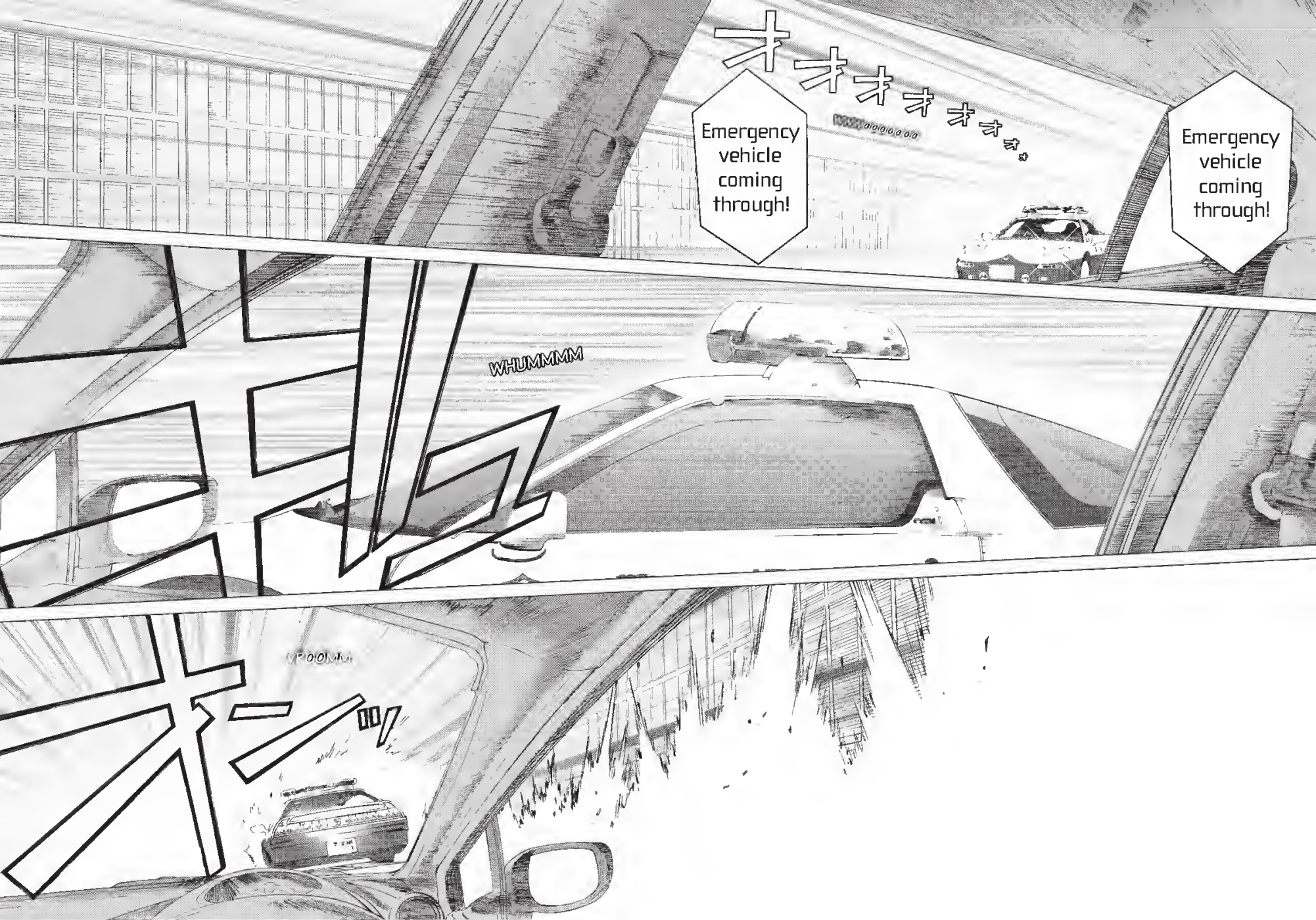
VRROOOM
フォオオオオオオ…
Oh.
A Ferrari…


The kids are out on their own now,
and it's good to splurge once in a while, isn't it?

Say, hon.
Next time, how 'bout we take the plunge and buy a sports car?
Wha?!

How now, dear?
Did you strike oil while you were sleeping?

VVRROOOMM
There's even some nice domestic models…
No, no.
What's the point?
Wasting money like that's a hobby for the nouveau riche.

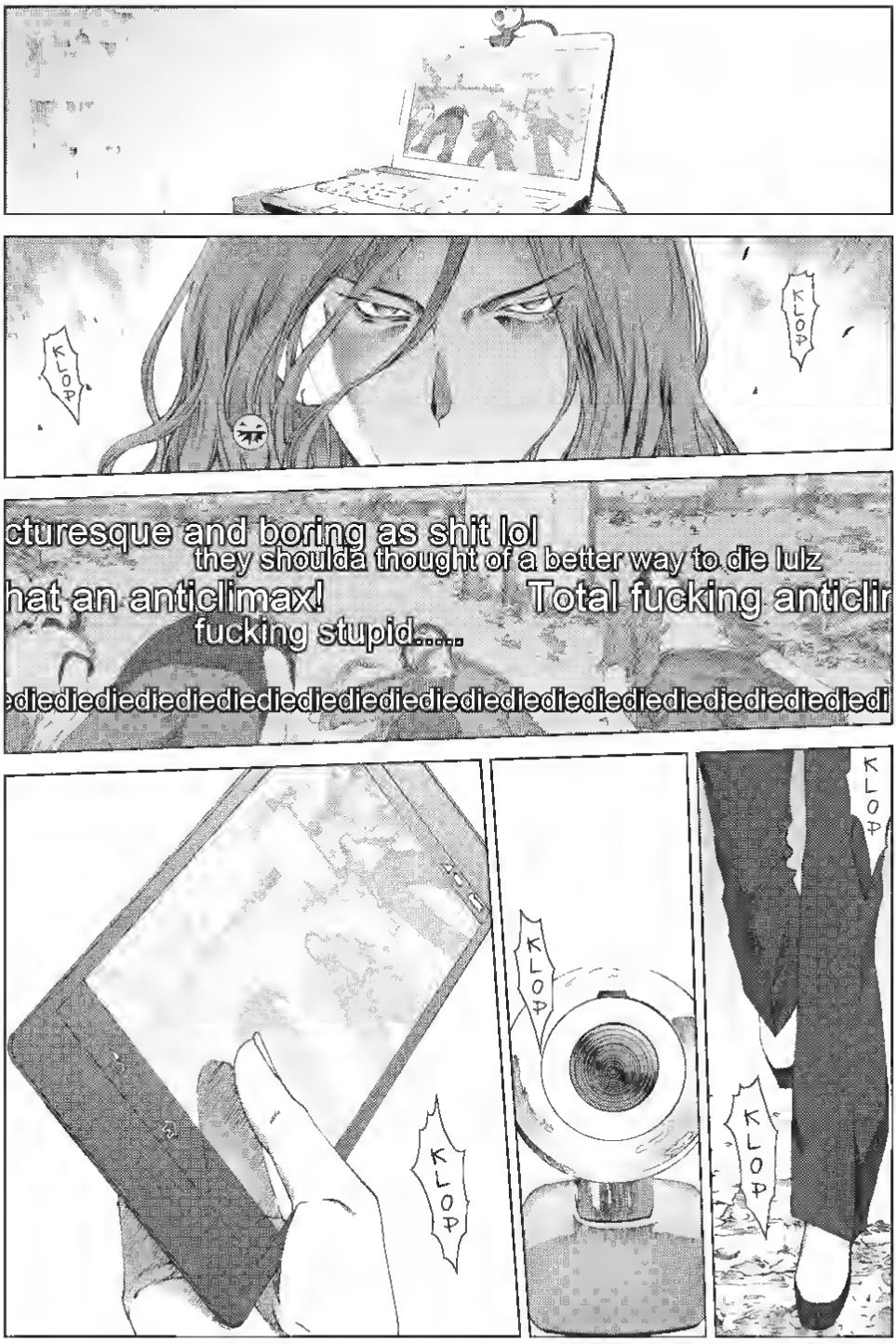

オオオオオオ
Emergency vehicle coming through!
Emergency vehicle coming through!
WHUMMMM
VROOMM
DO!

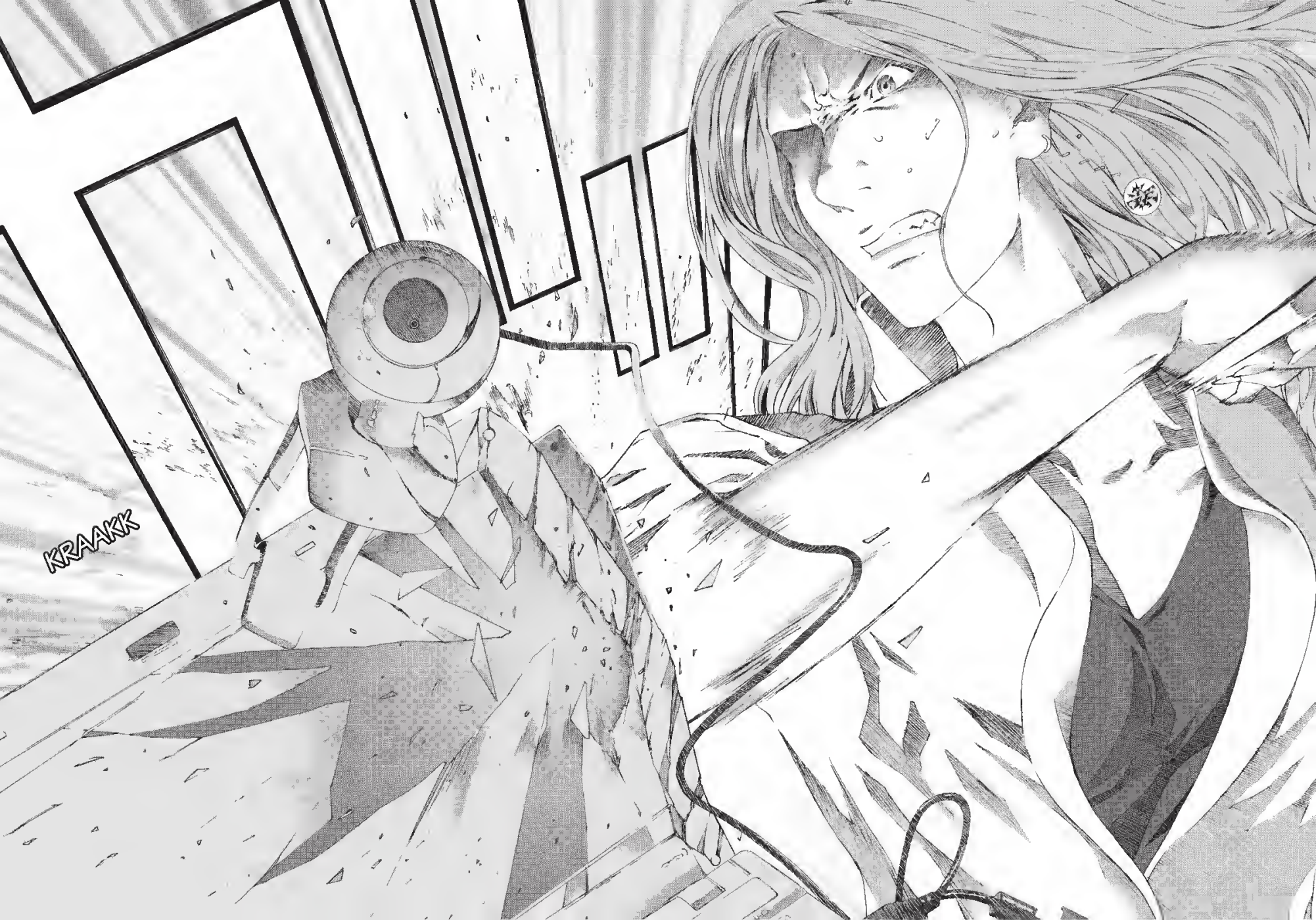
JTTP
JTTP
Why, it was just like a falcon racing along the seacoast ...!
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?!
ULP
That was fast ...
What was that? A cruiser ?!
ZISSSSSH

Thank you very much.
Lieutenant Yoshino, this is the area of the GPS coordinates!
Lights from that building ...
In there then.
!
Hurry up and die, die, hurry
what is this? They dead alre
They took sleeping pills and poison or something
they chose a fucking boring way to d
totally lame finale, lulz
Slice open your guts. Guts! lol

WHAM

KILROY WAS HERE

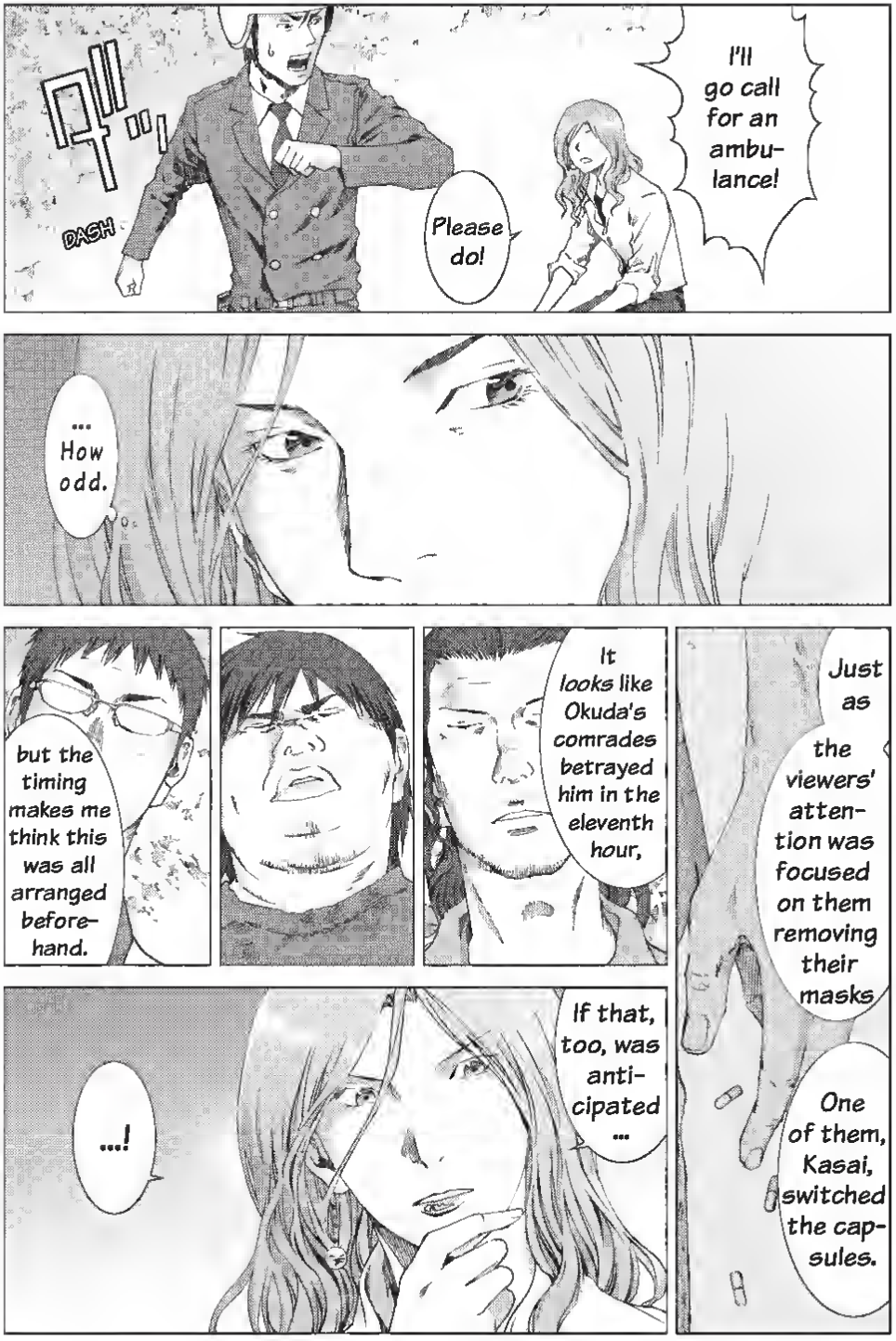

KLOP
KLOP
cturesque and boring as shit lol
they shoulda thought of a better way to die lulz
hat an anticlimax!
Total fucking anticlir
fucking stupid.....
ediediediediediediediediediediediediediediediediediedi
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP


KRAAKK

SMASH
KRASH

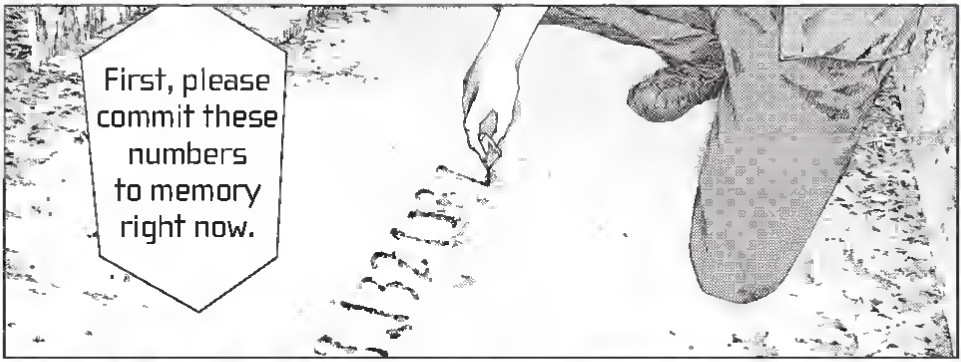
We meet at last,
Hiroaki Okuda.

I would have preferred to meet you while you were still alive...
Even though
These guys are still breathing. They're still alive!
Lieutenant Yoshino.
Hm?
The other three didn't take the poison.
...I knew it.

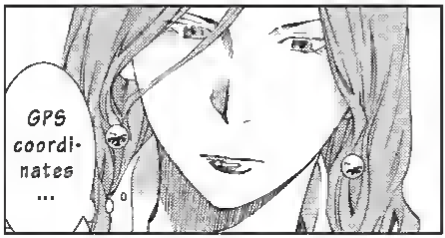

DASH
I'll go call for an ambulance!
Please do!
... How odd.
but the timing makes me think this was all arranged beforehand.
It looks like Okuda's comrades betrayed him in the eleventh hour,
Just as the viewers' attention was focused on them removing their masks
One of them, Kasai, switched the capsules.
...!
If that, too, was anticipated ...

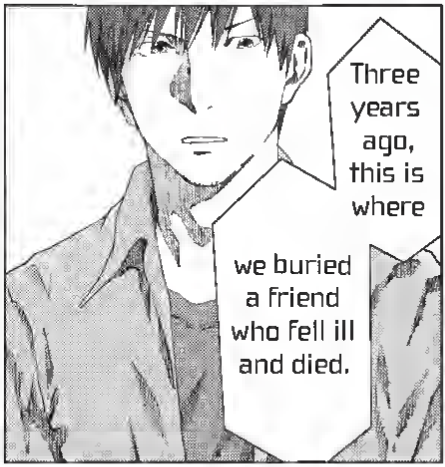
FLASH
FLASH

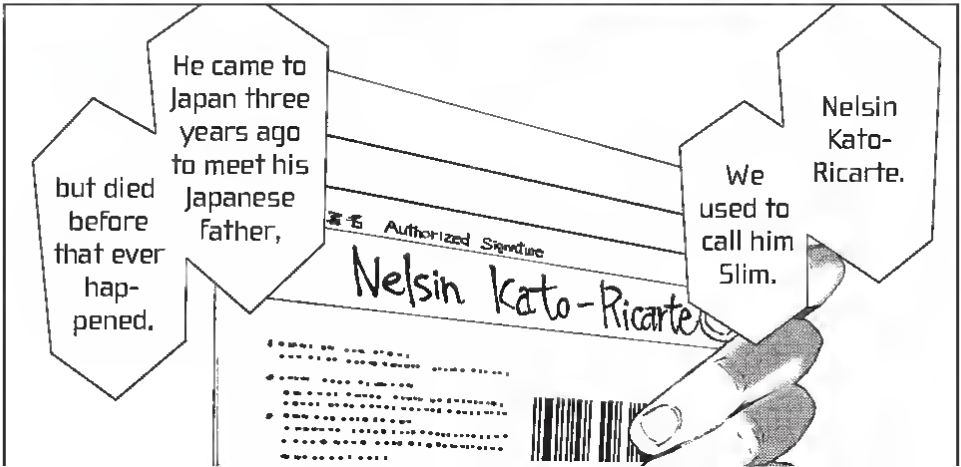
Movie
1/2
PLAY
フリップ
KLIK
A video recorded on this cell...
Ms. Erika Yoshino.
If things have gone as I predicted,
then you're probably the one watching the video on this phone.
The reason we did all this, made you jump through so many hoops,
is because there's something we desperately need you to do.


First, please commit these numbers to memory right now.

I would like you to dig up his remains and deliver them to his father.
Bones ...?


GPS coordinates ...

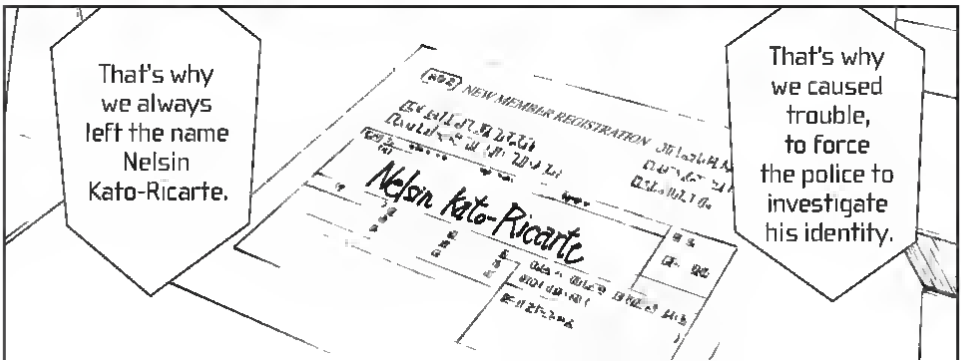

Three years ago, this is where
we buried a friend who fell ill and died.


He came to Japan three years ago to meet his Japanese father,
but died before that ever happened.
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte.
We used to call him Slim.
Authorized Signature
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte

We're no longer able to bring them face to face in life,
but at least I'd like to deliver his bones to his father.

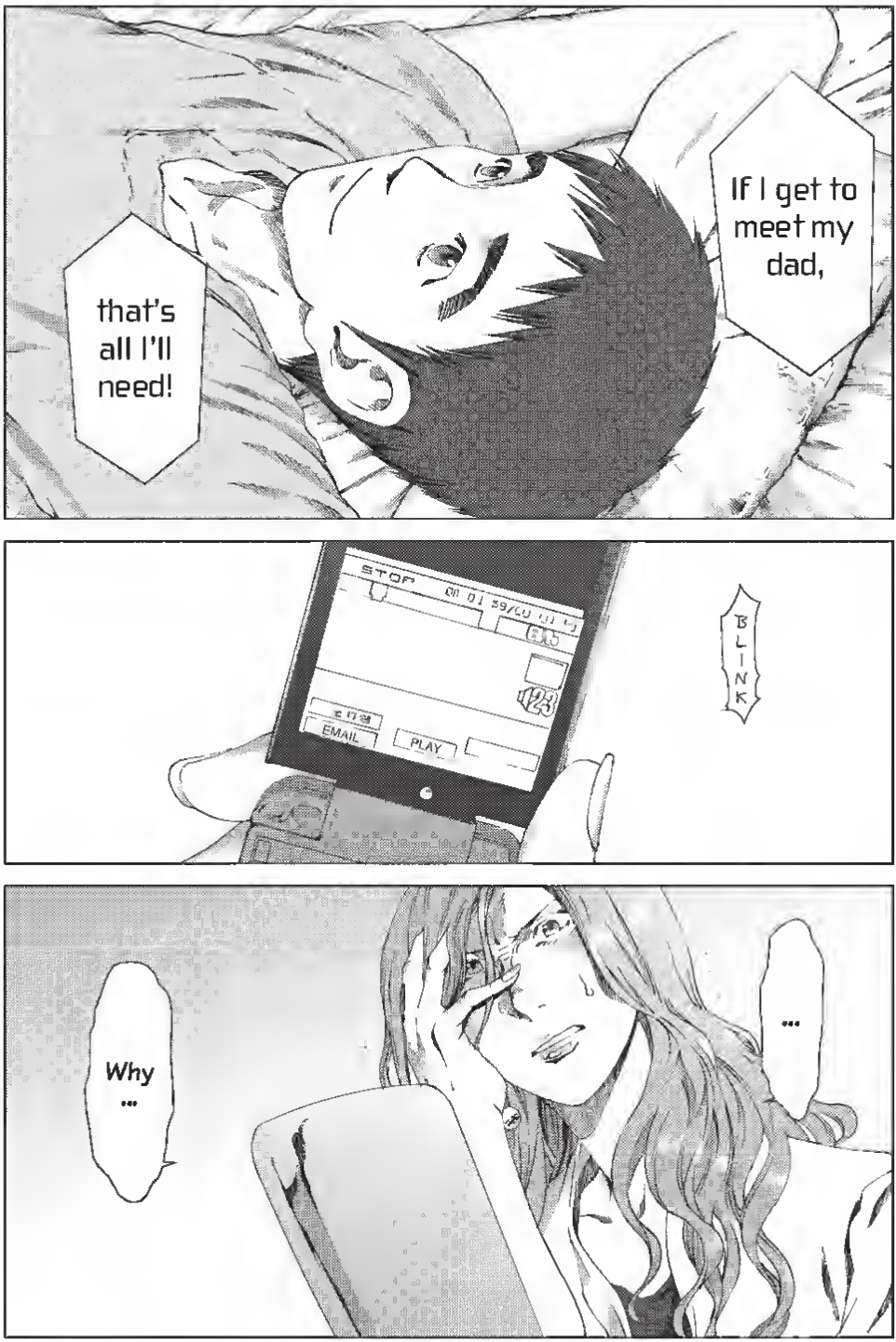
That is my only wish.

All we know is that his mother was a Filipina.
KILROY WAS HERE
But we had too few hints to his real identity.

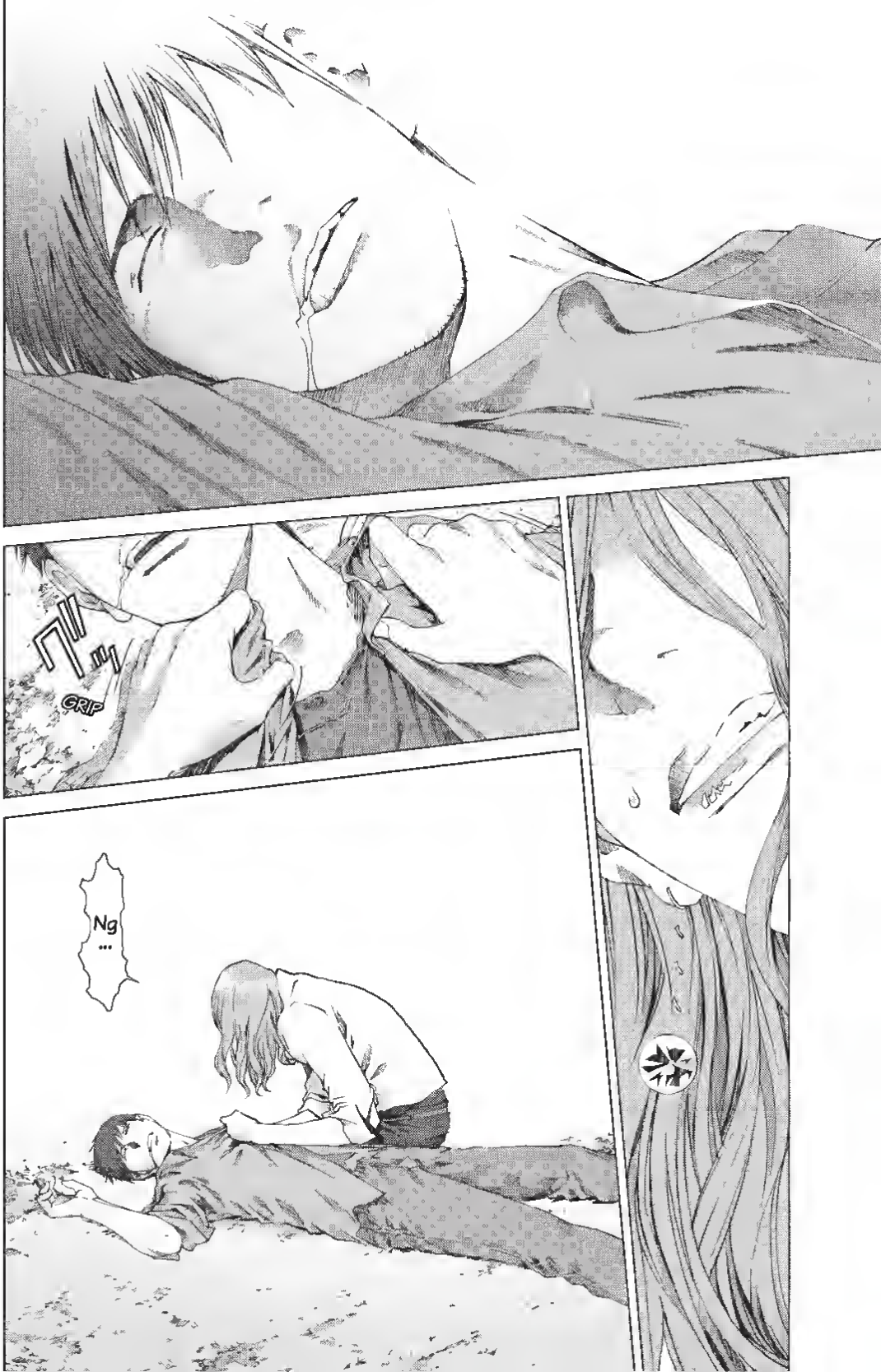

That's why we always left the name Nelsin Kato-Ricarte.
NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte
That's why we caused trouble, to force the police to investigate his identity.

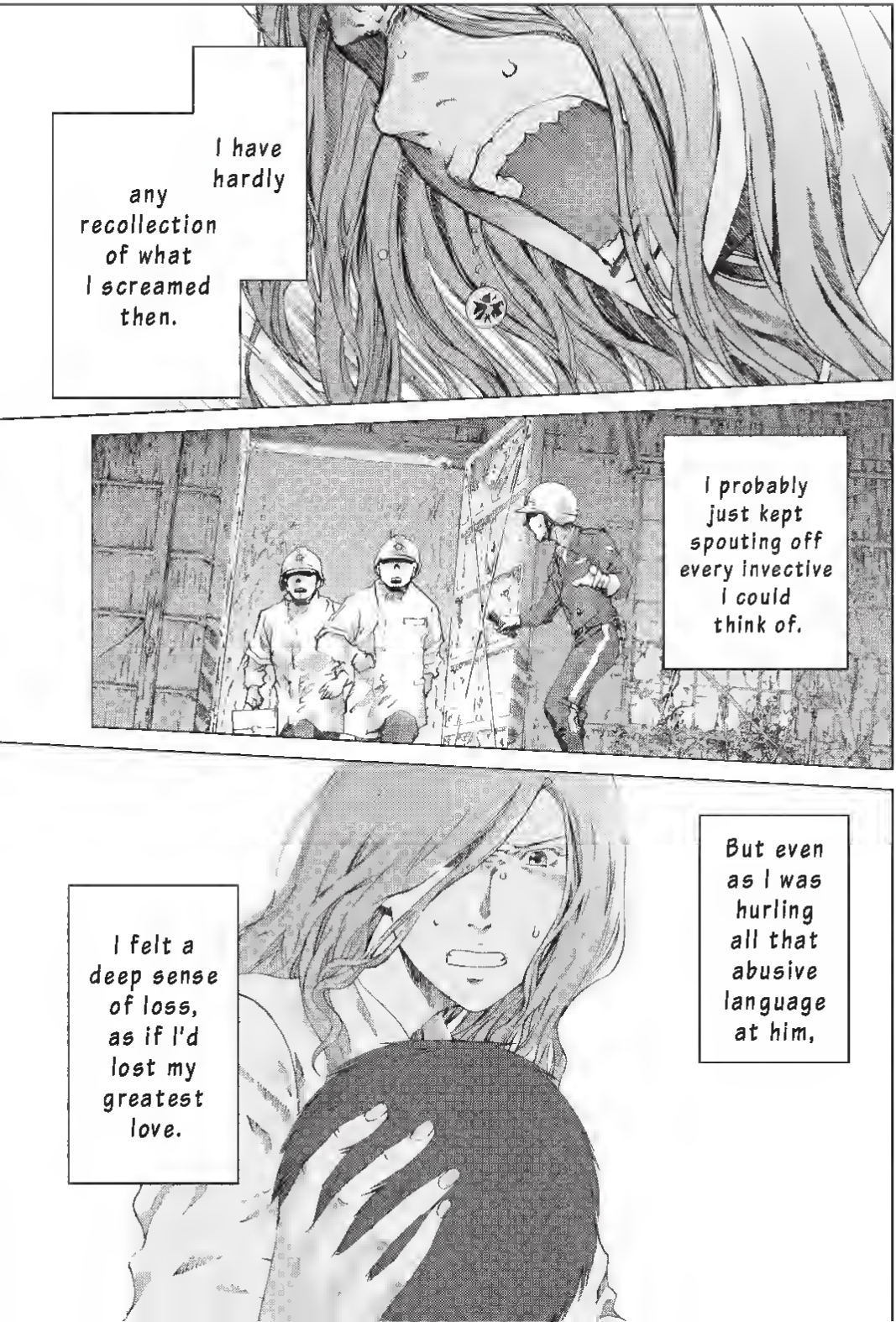
What ...is this ?
What ...?
All that just for this reason ...?
That's it...?
KLIK
!
Movie
PLAY
There's
PLAY
another video file...
You must be kid-ding.
Why would you go so far just to make such a thing happen ...?

Once you've found him, what do you want to do?
Slim. How about you?
Never thought about what I'd do then.
Once I find my dad ...
Hmm ...
I'd want to call him "dad"!
Ah! I know.
Oh?
That's not what I'm asking.
That doesn't count as some-thing you want to do.


If I get to meet my dad,
that's all I'll need!
STOP
EMAIL
PLAY
BLINK
...
Why ...

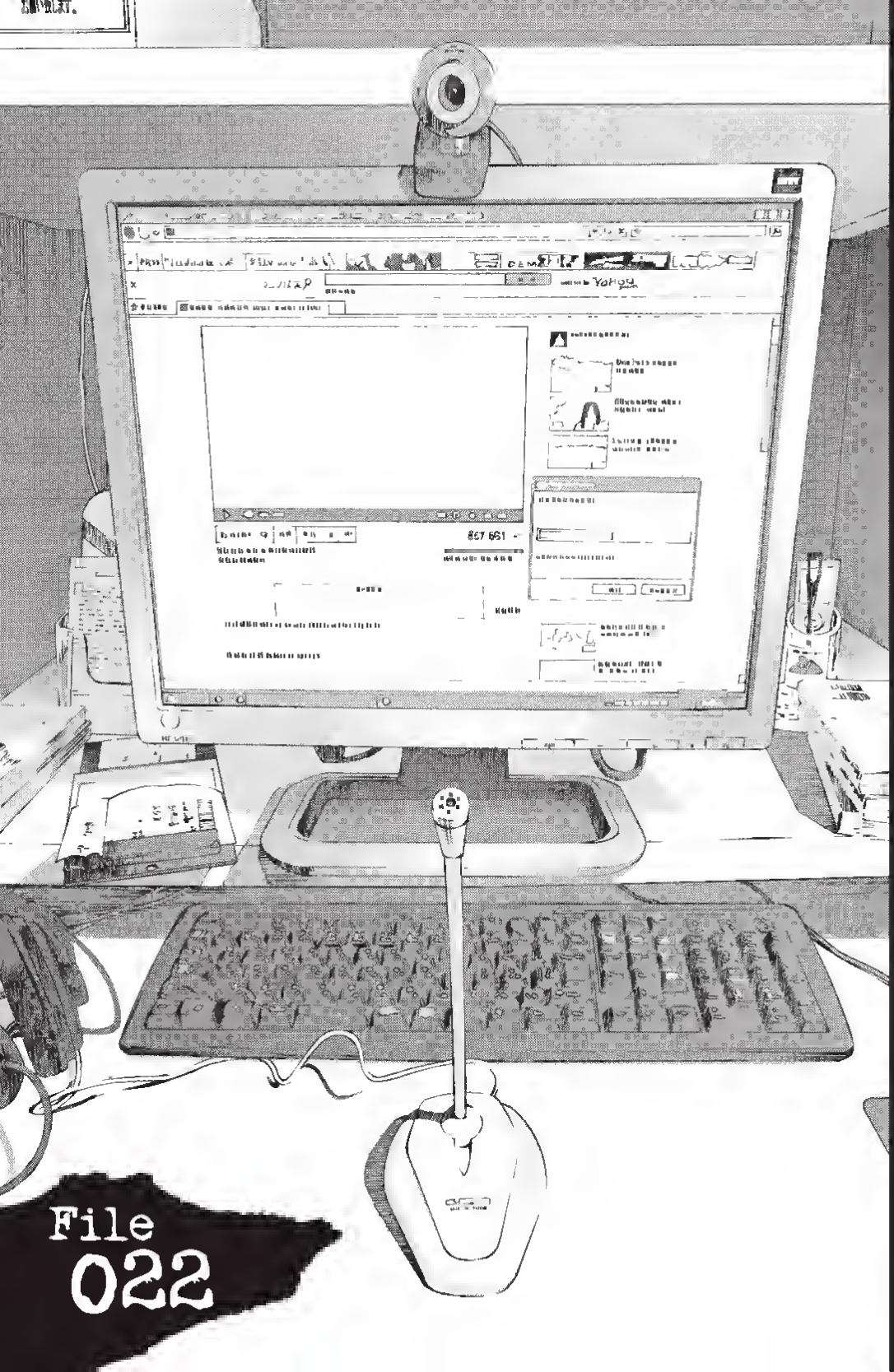
Okamoto ...
BADUM
But i couldn't help but feel
your words somehow pierced the very core of this case.
BADUM
Something you said to Chief Matsumoto before
has been snagging at my mind this whole time.
It's possible to carry out actions that transcend personal gain.
The moment when you believe with absolute conviction that something will benefit someone


GRIP
Ng
...

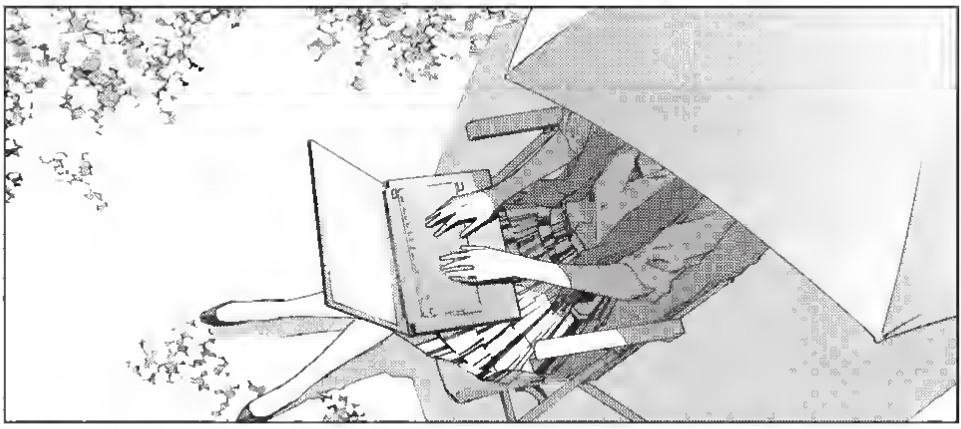

I have hardly any recollection of what I screamed then.
I probably just kept spouting off every invective I could think of.
But even as I was hurling all that abusive language at him,
I felt a deep sense of loss, as if I'd lost my greatest love.

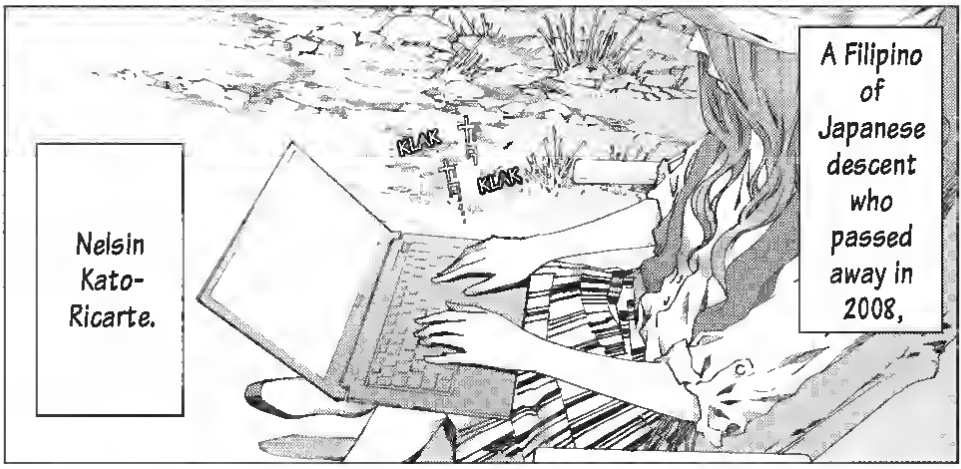
And I found I had no choice but to pray
that the soul of this pathetic, foolish man
would end up someplace peaceful.

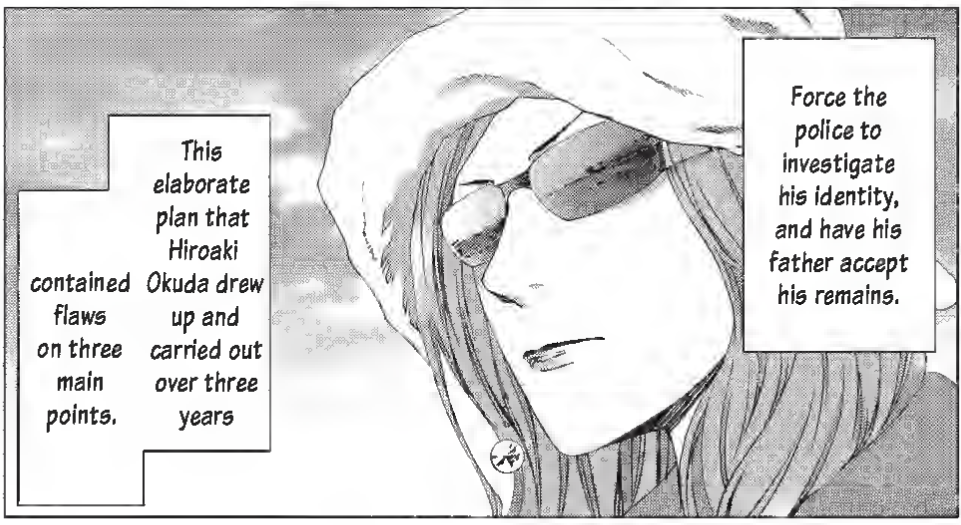
PROPHECY



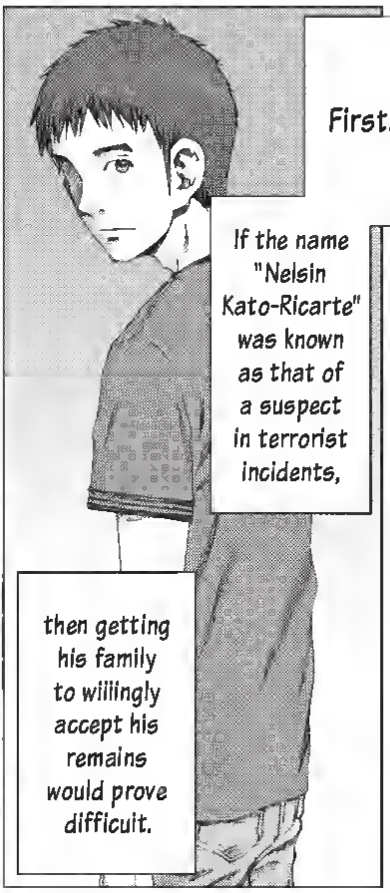
File
022

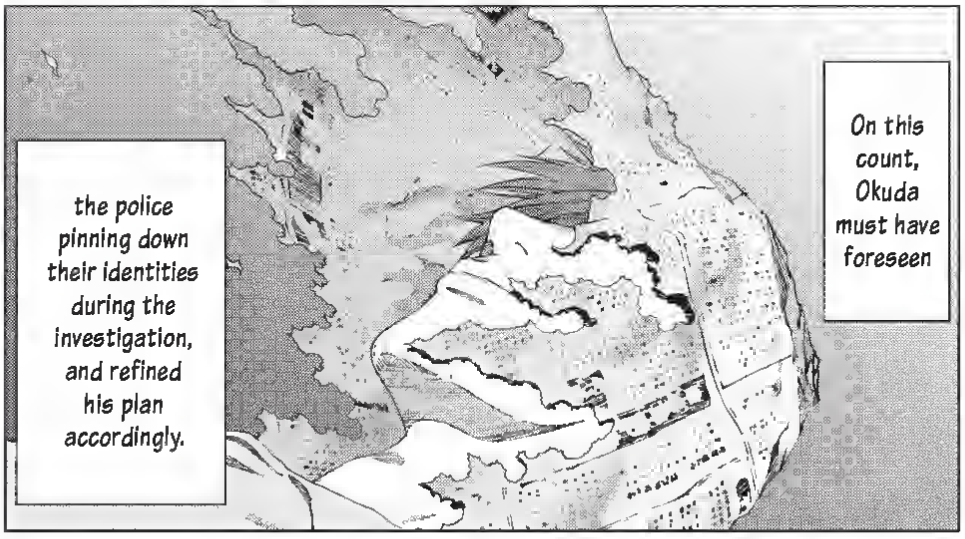


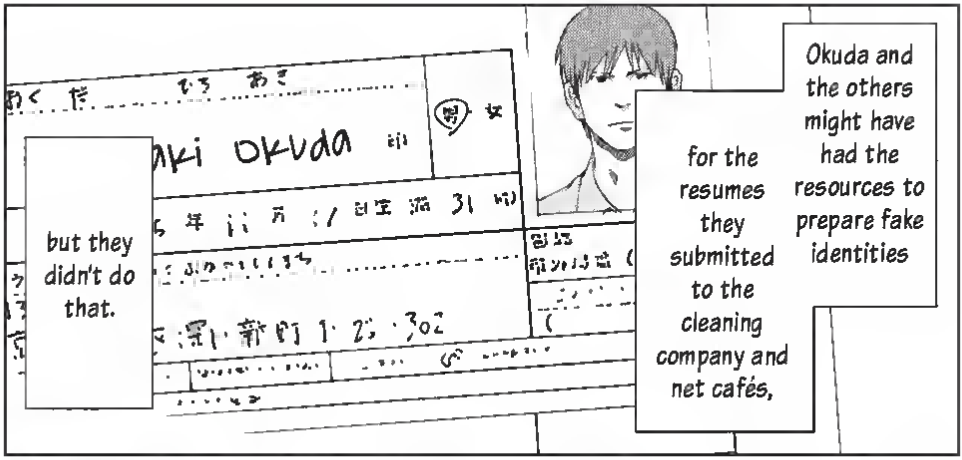

KLAK
KLAK
Nelsin Kato-Ricarte.
A Filipino of Japanese descent who passed away in 2008,


This elaborate plan that Hiroaki Okuda drew up and carried out over three years
contained flaws on three main points.
Force the police to investigate his identity, and have his father accept his remains.

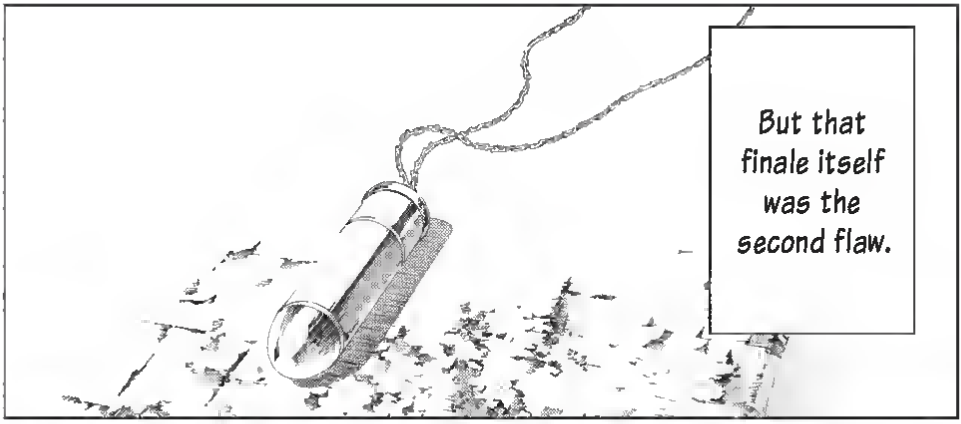
沖縄そば
It's especially hard to say a plan is realistic when it calls for a man who'd had no contact with a son
he'd refused to acknowledge for 20 years, to accept said son as family after he was suspected of terrorism.

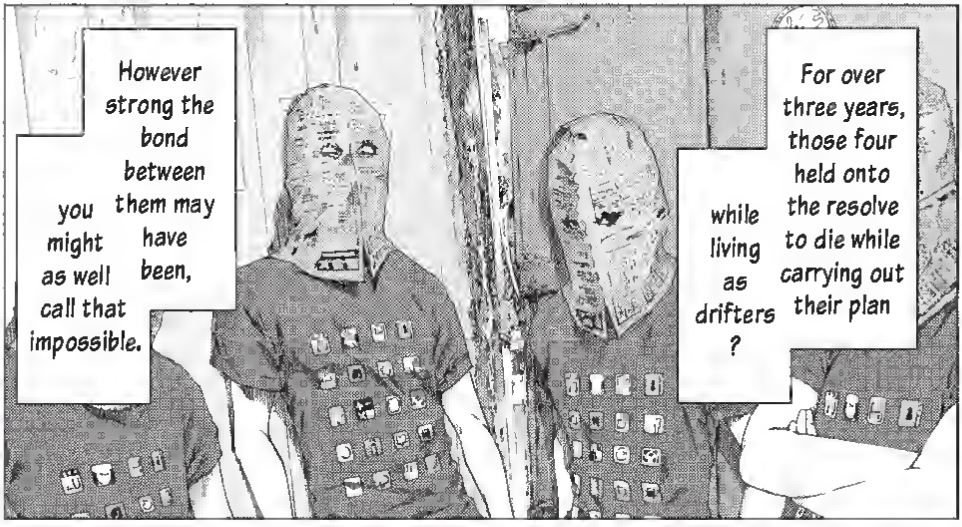

First:
If the name "Nelsin Kato-Ricarte" was known as that of a suspect in terrorist incidents,
then getting his family to willingly accept his remains would prove difficult.

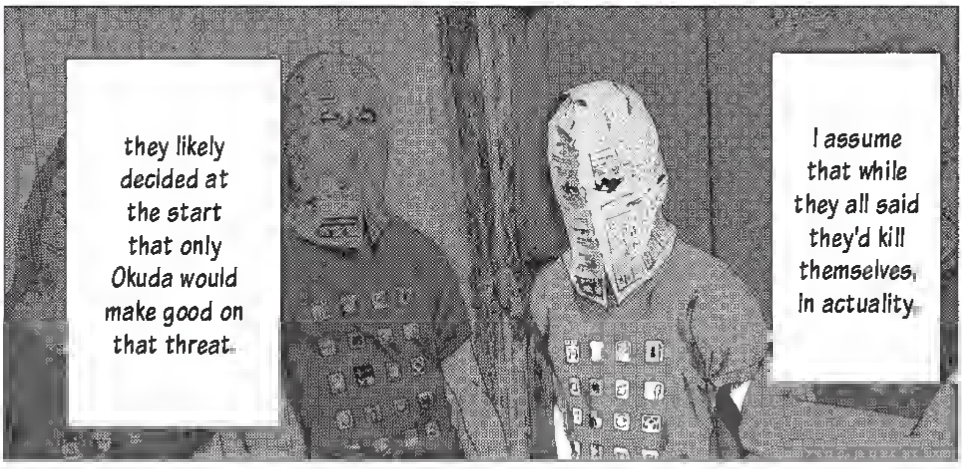

the police pinning down their identities during the investigation, and refined his plan accordingly.
On this count, Okuda must have foreseen


Okuda and the others might have had the resources to prepare fake identities
for the resumes they submitted to the cleaning company and net cafés,
but they didn't do that.

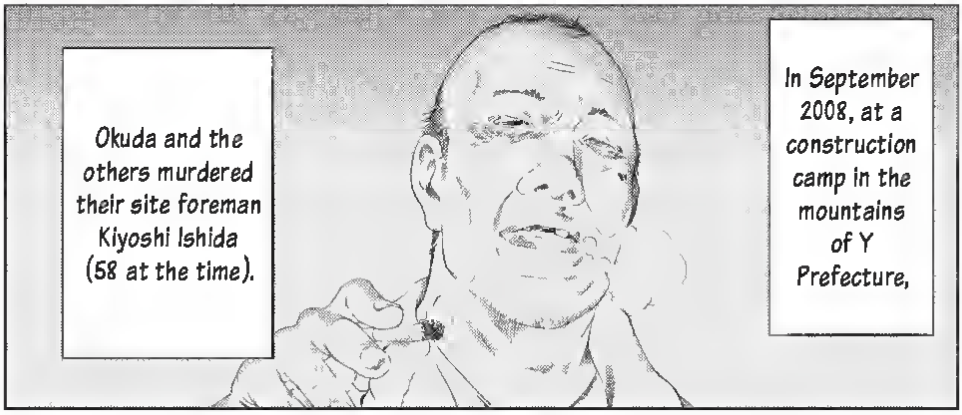
In the end, the criminal scheme of the masked terrorists using the false name "Nelsin Kato-Ricarte"
had their true identities unraveled by the police,
and failed to carry out their death threat against Representative Shitaragi
and so they all committed suicide.

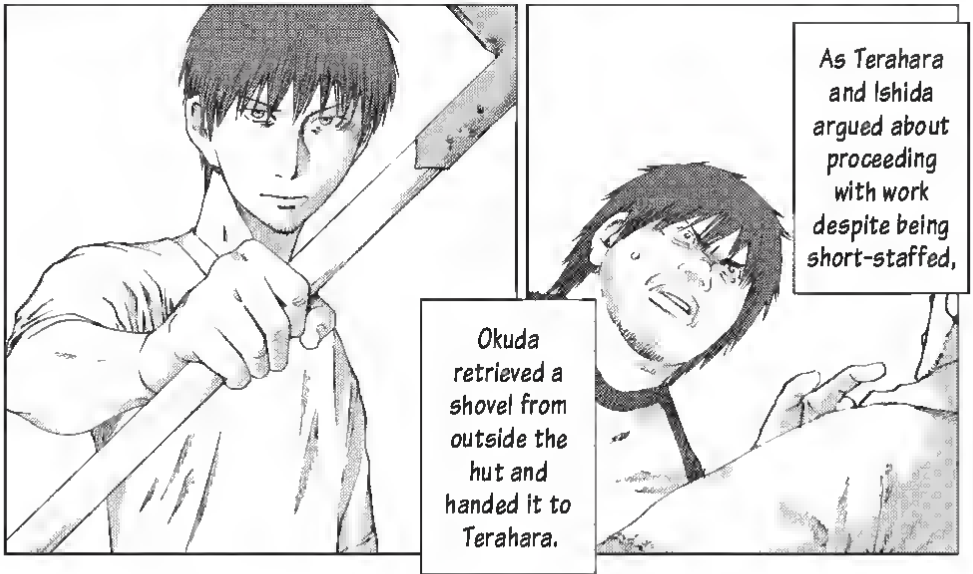

But that finale itself was the second flaw.


However strong the bond between them may have been,
you might as well call that impossible.
For over three years, those four held onto the resolve to die while carrying out their plan
while living as drifters?


they likely decided at the start that only Okuda would make good on that threat.
I assume that while they all said they'd kill themselves, in actuality

in which he "dominated his three comrades through fear and violence."
To execute this plan, Okuda fabricated a tale


Okuda and the others murdered their site foreman Kiyoshi Ishida (58 at the time).
In September 2008, at a construction camp in the mountains of Y Prefecture,


Okuda retrieved a shovel from outside the hut and handed it to Terahara.
As Terahara and Ishida argued about proceeding with work despite being short-staffed,

and they took turns bludgeoning the cowering Ishida to death.
Okuda also passed that shovel to Kasai and Kimura,
and thus he turned them into devoted pawns. Or so the story goes.
Okuda used this incident as grounds on which to blackmail the others,
that the bruises and cuts they got in the course of their daily manual labor were actually the result of violence perpetrated by Okuda.
As evidence of this, Terahara, Kasai, and Kimura asserted

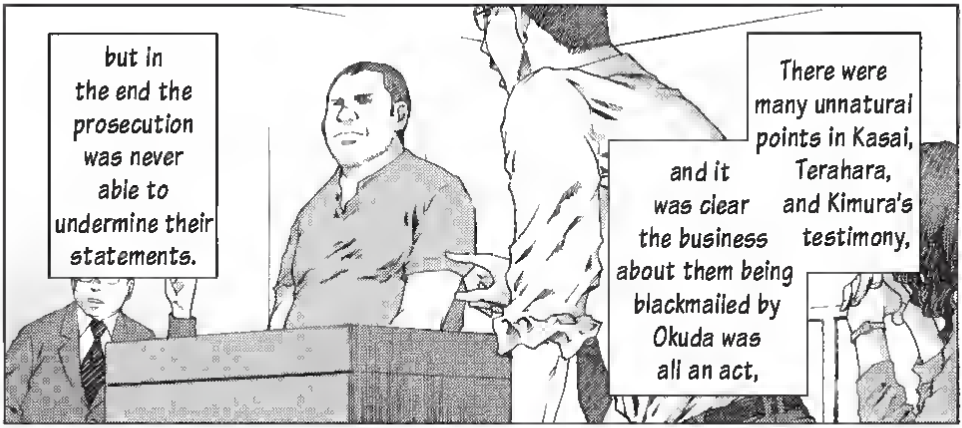
This was apparently
a "penalty" for Kimura having called the police on June 2nd.
The most conclusive of these was a large burn scar on Kimura's right arm.

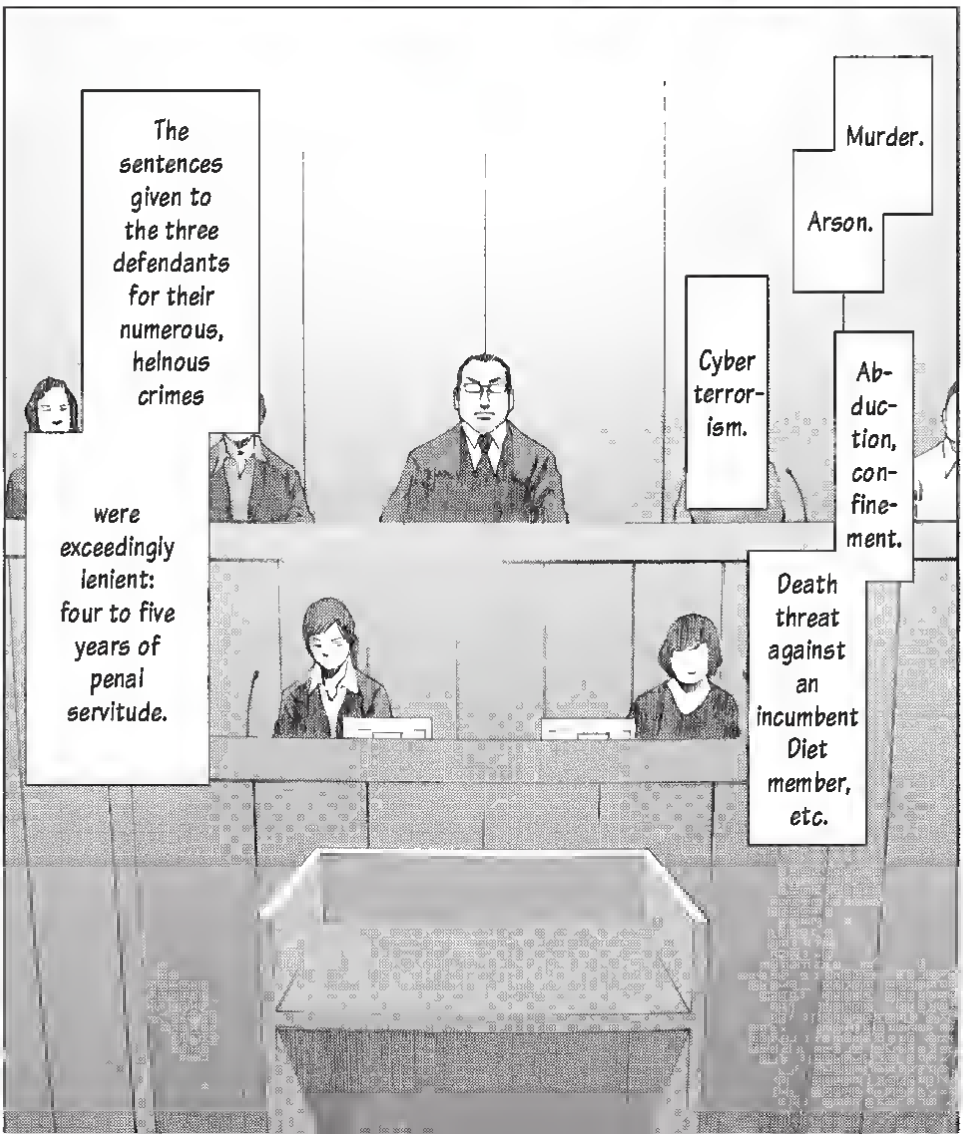
that Okuda inflicted on himself for carelessly causing a disturbance in Akihabara on May 30th.
but according to the testimony of Kasai and the others, this, too, was a penalty
A similar, smaller burn was also identified on Okuda's left forearm,

they all testified that they had watched and waited for a chance to escape his control.
While Kasai, Terahara and Kimura were all submissive to Okuda,

Once called a god of the 'net,
the charismatic man who controlled his comrades through fear and violence
failed to fulfill his death threat against a Diet member,
and after drowning in the disappointment and scorn of netizens,
pathetically, he was met with his comrades' betrayal at the eleventh hour.

and, along with Kasai, pretended to be dead.
Terahara and Kimura received empty capsules
One, Kasai, deliberately standing within the field of view of the webcam
swapped out the cyanide capsules.
Okuda was the only one who swallowed a real capsule and made good on his threat.
In order for Okuda to sacrifice himself alone and save his comrades,
this was the only possible scenario.

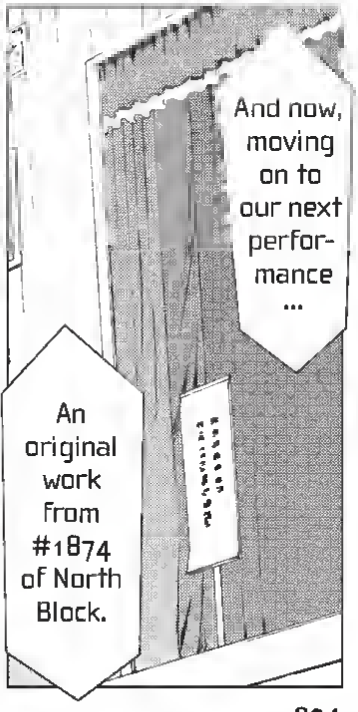

but in the end the prosecution was never able to undermine their statements.
There were many unnatural points in Kasai, Terahara, and Kimura's testimony,
and it was clear the business about them being blackmailed by Okuda was all an act,

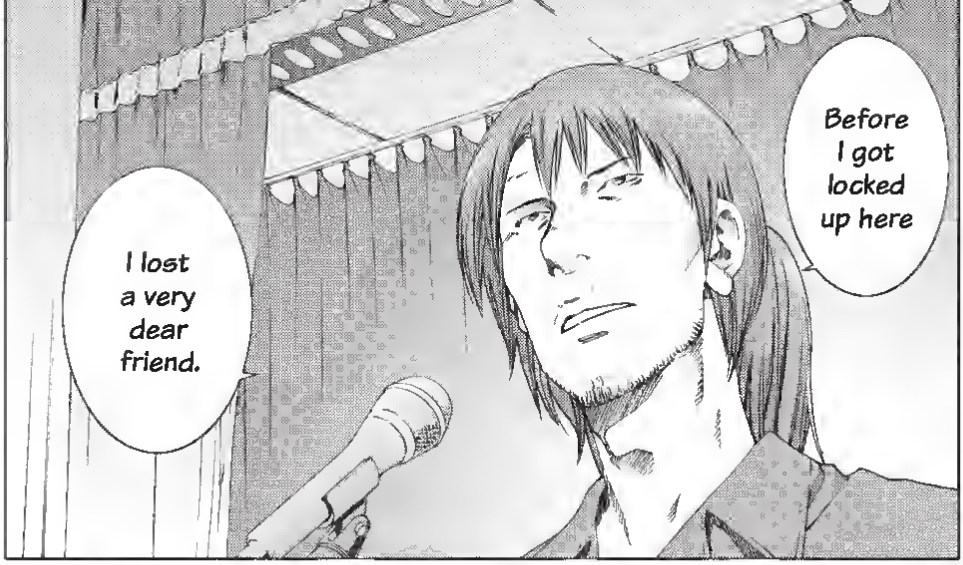

The sentences given to the three defendants for their numerous, heinous crimes
were exceedingly lenient: four to five years of penal servitude.
Murder.
Arson.
Cyber terrorism.
Abduction, confinement.
Death threat against an incumbent Diet member, etc.

THREE YEARS LATER...
F CITY PRISON

39TH ANNUAL
RISON CULTURE FESTIVAL

Ha ha ha!
Dude's wearing a wig!
HUB
What's with that hair?
BUB


And now, moving on to our next performance ...
An original work from #1874 of North Block.


I lost a very dear friend.
Before I got locked up here

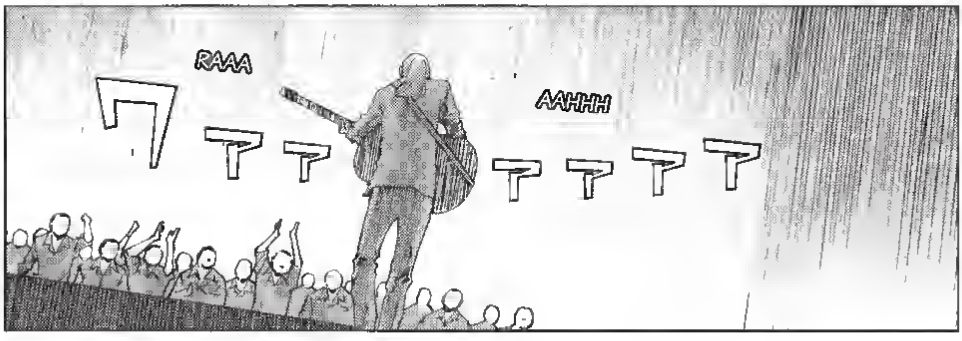
Today I'm going to sing a song I wrote for him.

Thank you for listening.

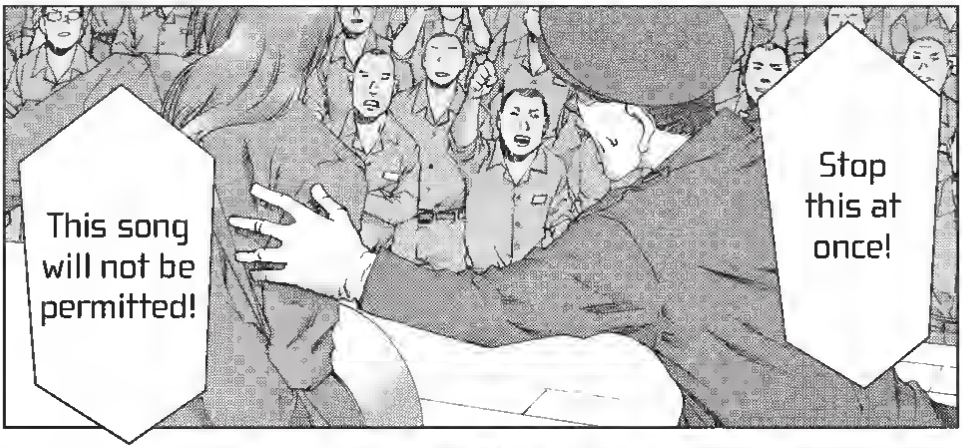
To be honest,
writing and singing songs
is just about all I've got left anymore.

JRRAANNG

Is he a pro?
Oh. He's good...

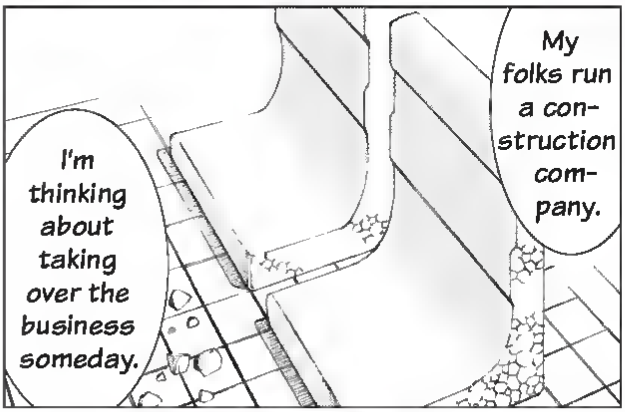

RAAA
AAHHH

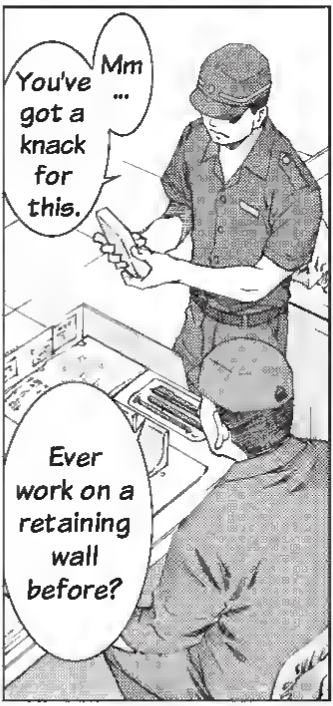
This is totally different from the lyrics he submitted beforehand!
Prison life is
So much fun
Doing my job today
Giving it my all (Oh!)
Fix up! Tidy up!
Clean! Sanitary!
...Hey.
What is this song?
Ch-Chief!


This song will not be permitted!
Stop this at once!

TOMOHIKO KASAI
5 years of penal servitude plus a 1-year extension for inciting a riot.

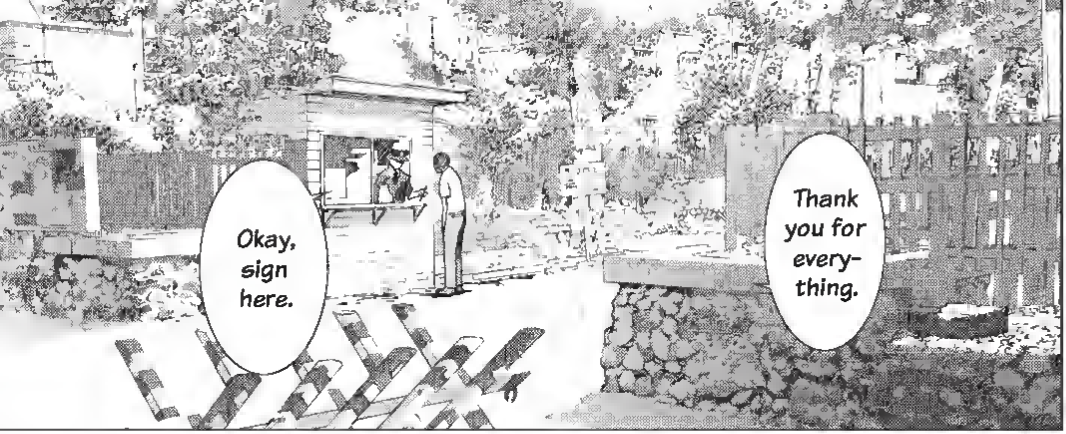
You're first again, huh.
Oh!
Could you check this please!


I'm thinking about taking over the business someday.
My folks run a construction company.


You've got a knack for this.
Mm...
Ever work on a retaining wall before?

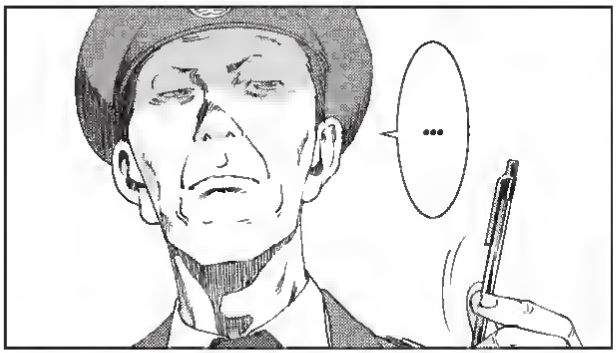
Well, keep at it.
I see.

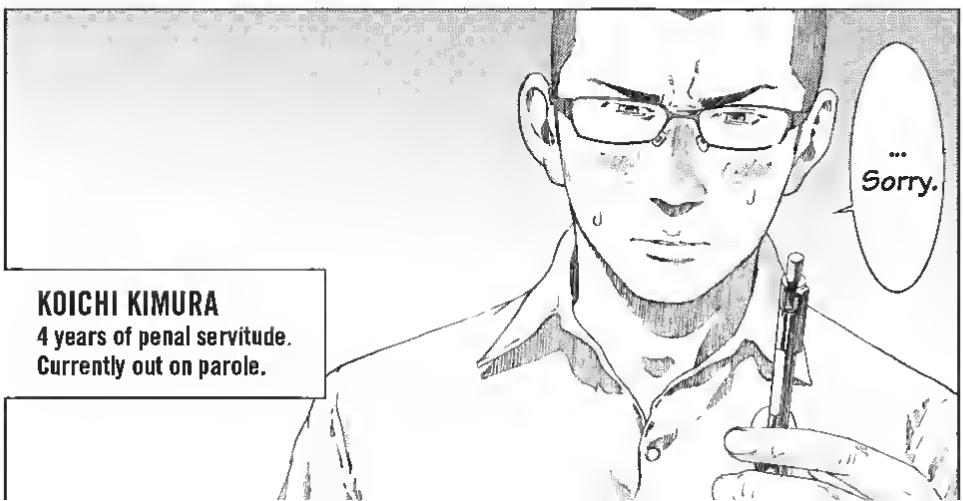
SHIN'ICHI TERAHARA
5 years, 6 months of penal servitude. Currently serving his sentence.


Okay, sign here.
Thank you for everything.

TAK!
TAK!

Aah...

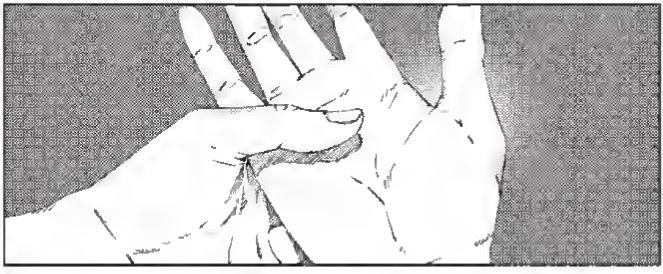

...


...Sorry.
KOICHI KIMURA
4 years of penal servitude.
Currently out on parole.

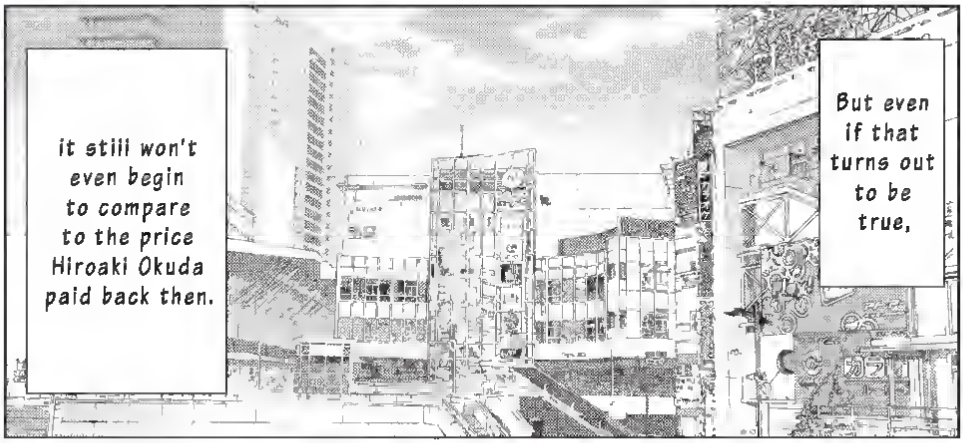
I still have a burn scar on my right elbow and some nerve paralysis.
Koichi Kim
Due to the "penalty" I got three years ago,

They call it radial nerve palsy.
I don't really have drawing power in my right thumb
or the strength to lift my wrist.

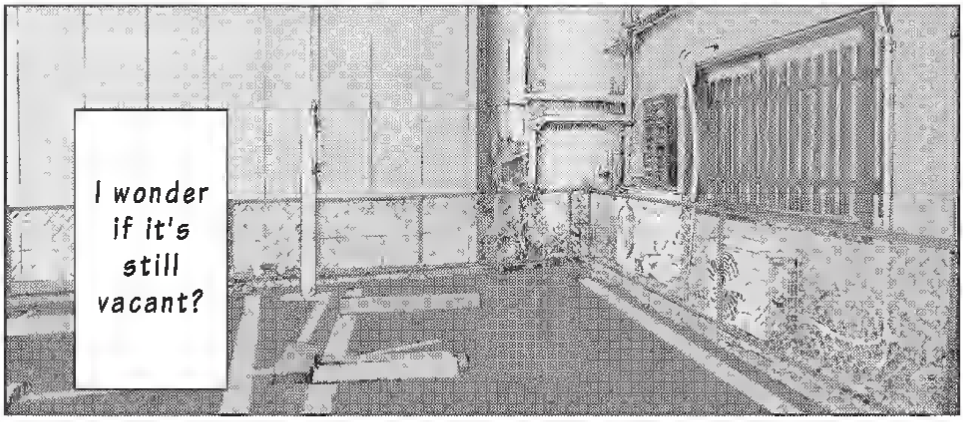
It's possible it could stay this way my whole life.



But in my case,
They say the kind of paralysis from sleeping wrong usually heals in half a year.


it still won't even begin to compare to the price Hiroaki Okuda paid back then.
But even if that turns out to be true,

where Okuda grilled me. where I left that umbrella three years ago...
That place

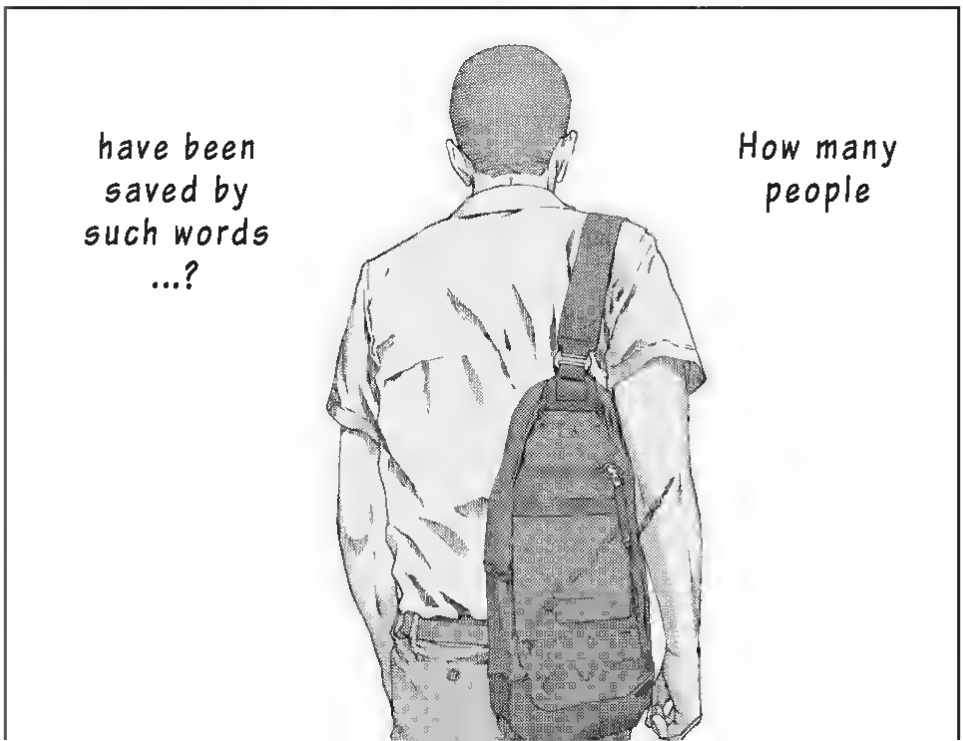

I wonder if it's still vacant?

When considering the odds, what are the chances that in three years nobody has noticed
the umbrella I left in that spot, and it's still hanging there?
Even so, I have to go and make sure for myself.
Because I promised
that I would absolutely return it.

then I'll take it back to her.
if the umbrella is there
There's no guarantee whatsoever that she's still working at that same place.
Takamura Ramen
... No.
None of that makes any difference.
She was so sweet,
adored by everyone around her,
so it'd be no surprise if, say, she was married with kids by now.
(Though I don't want to think it...)

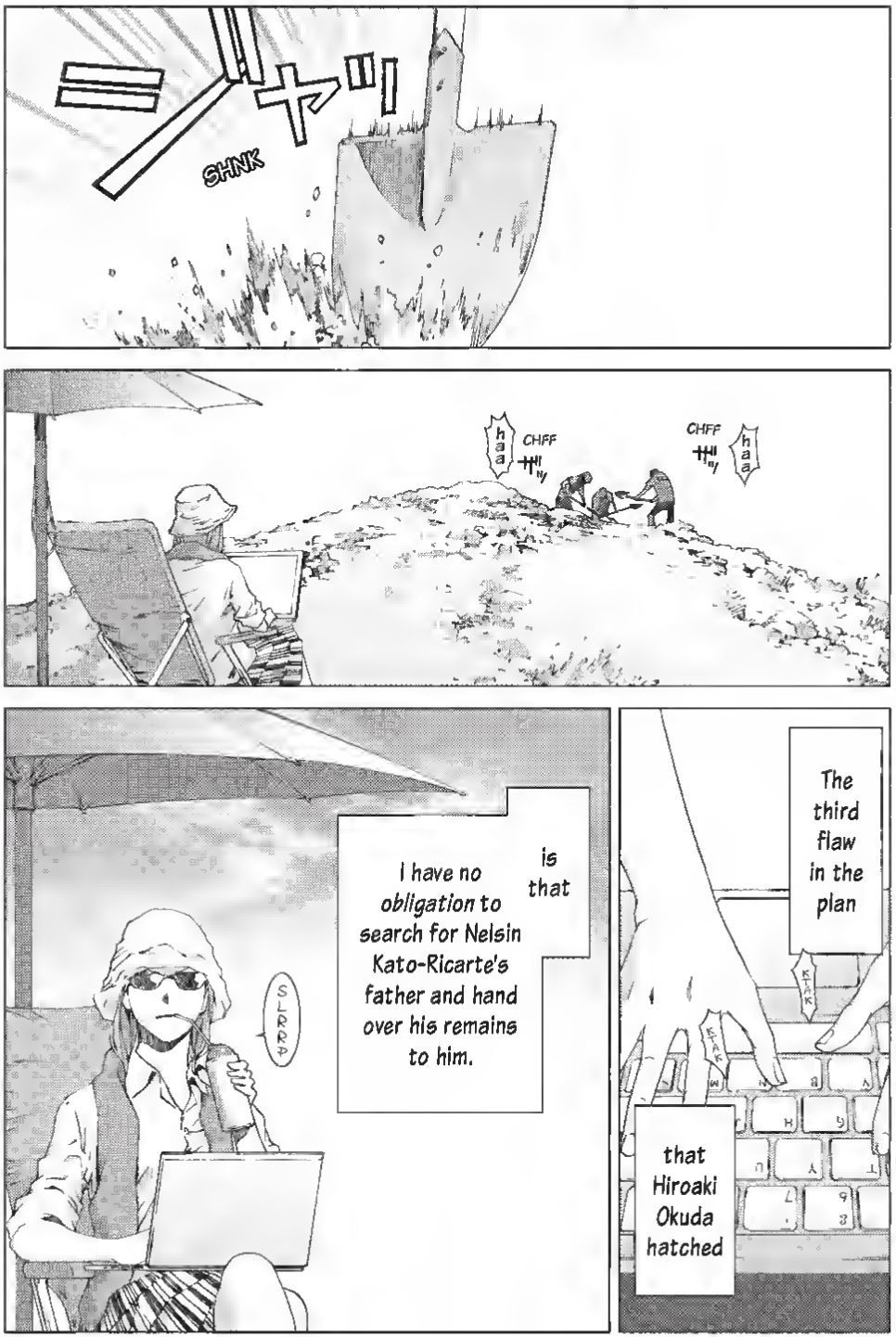
I just want to see her and say a word of thanks.
No matter if she thought I was creepy.

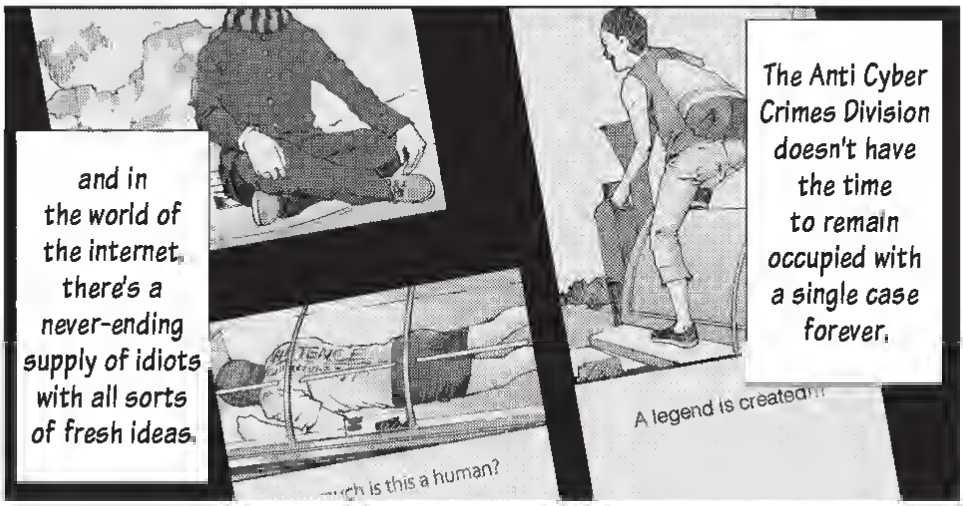
Please come again, okay?
Well, I'll be waiting.

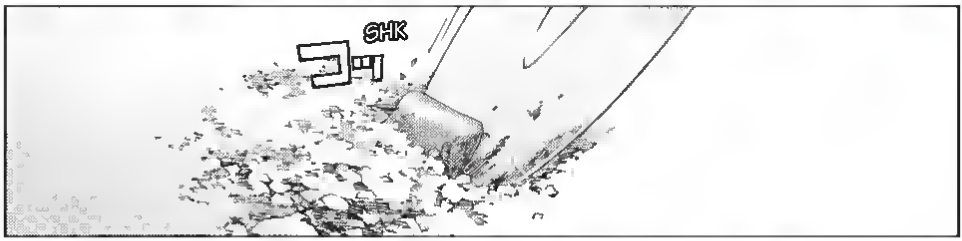

How many people have been saved by such words ...?

... It was here.
CHIFF
If I turn that corner,
I'll be able to see the spot.
Once more, I'll try to believe
The me of three years ago probably never would have considered coming back to check, would he...?

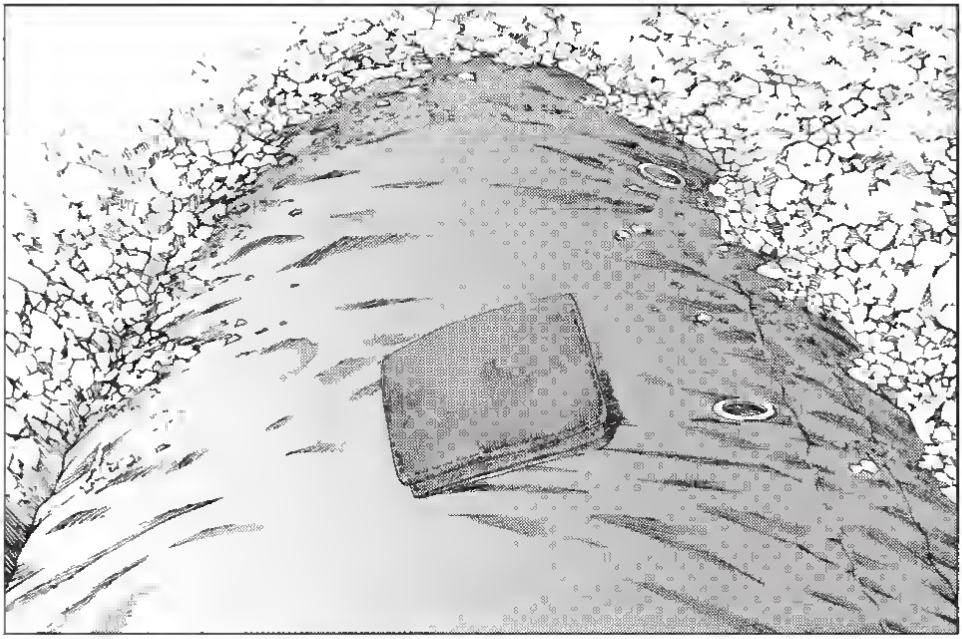
in
miracles
...

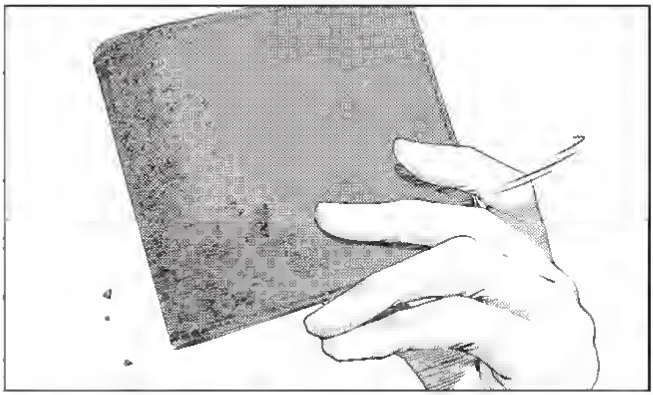

SHNK
haa
CHFF
CHFF
haa
SLRRP
I have no obligation to search for Nelsin Kato-Ricarte's father and hand over his remains to him.
is that
The third flaw in the plan
KTAK
KTAK
that Hiroaki Okuda hatched


and in the world of the internet, there's a never-ending supply of idiots with all sorts of fresh ideas.
The Anti Cyber Crimes Division doesn't have the time to remain occupied with a single case forever.
A legend is created!!!


SHK

We found it!!
Captain Yoshino!
Hm ?!
However, as a benevolent person,
I'm being magnanimous and going along with his plot, just as he asked.
POLIC

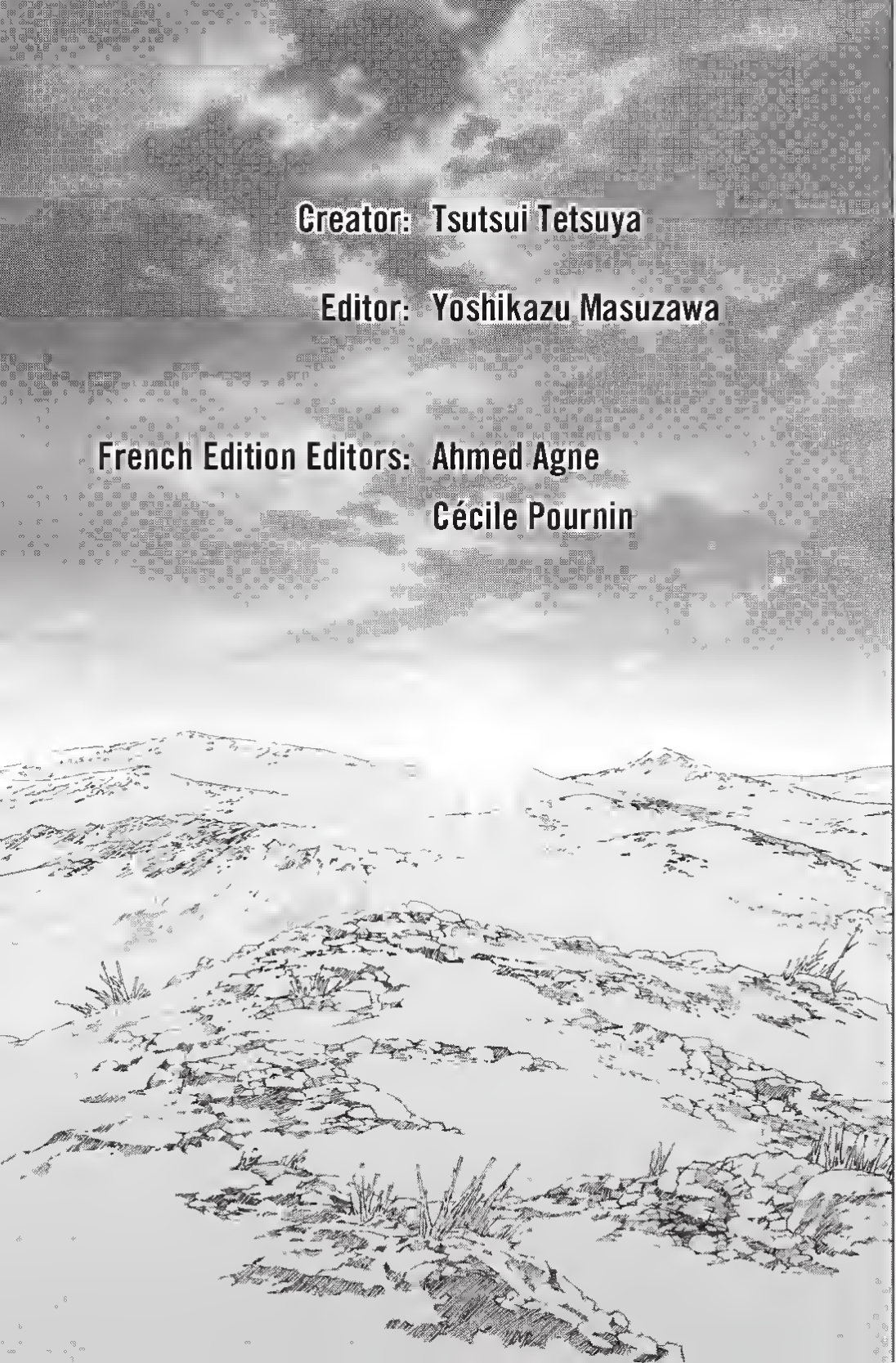




Hmf.

KILROY WAS HERE
He prophesied it all, then achieved it.
As an expression of respect to the man,

I think I'll let him make me dance just a little longer.



Creator: Tsutsui Tetsuya

Editor: Yoshikazu Masuzawa

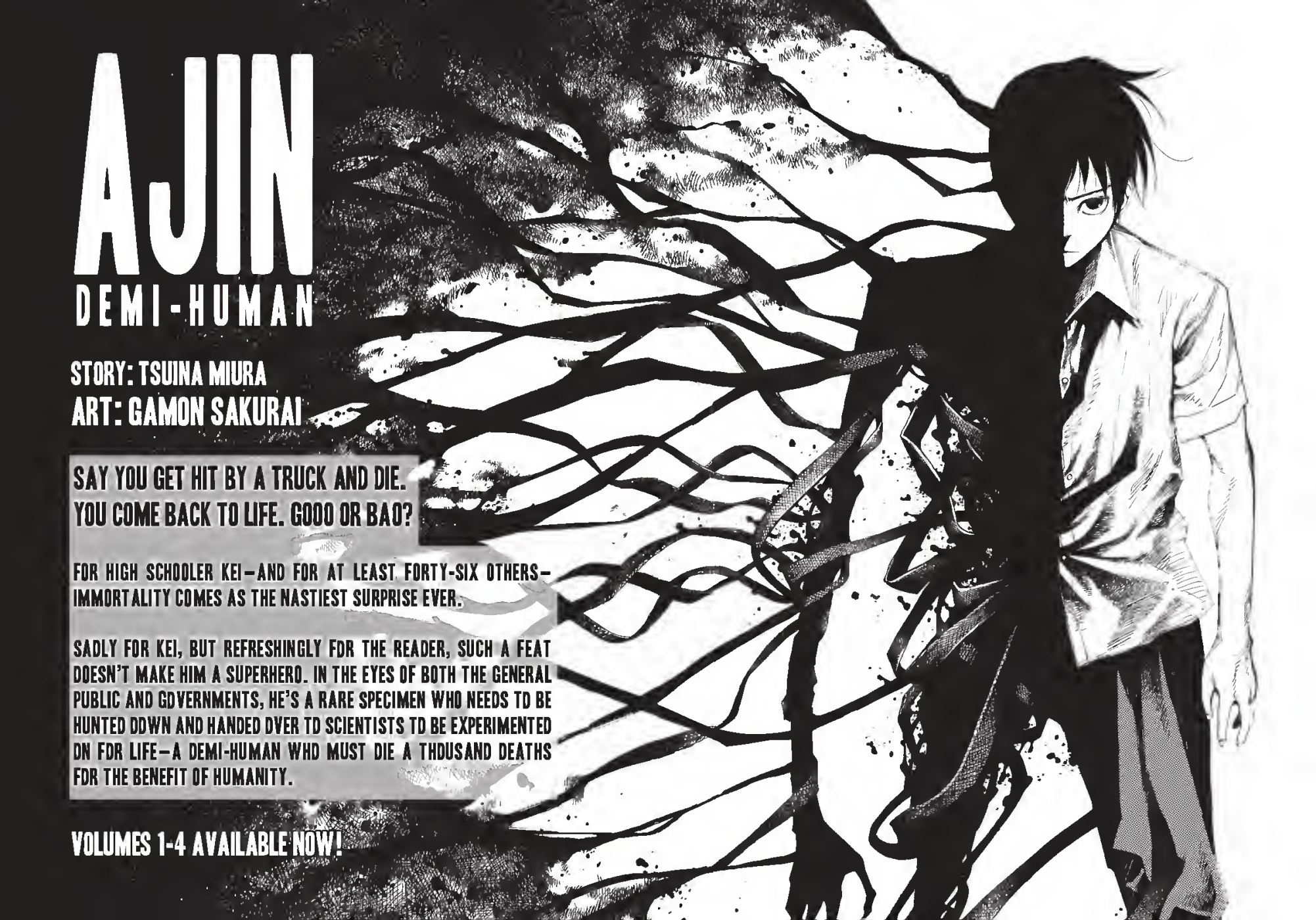
French Edition Editors: Ahmed Agne

Cécile Pournin

PROPHECY

Thank you very much for reading!

2018.8.5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# Prophecy, part 3

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In this concluding volume, the members of Paperboy gather to prepare to carry out their next act of vengeance against a hypocritical politician. But the guilty conscience of one of the co-conspirators leads him to tip off the police, and the Anti Cyber Crimes Division is closing in on the terrorist group. After an embarrassing misstep, Paperboy's ringleader sets his sights on the most dangerous target yet...

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